Portland Me.
Feb. 3. 1875.

Dear Mr Brewster:-

I was very sorry that I had no opportunity of calling upon you, during my flying visit to Newtonville, but take this method of expressing my thanks for the kindness and attention you showed me, during my "apprenticeship." To the other gentlemen of the Nuttall Club

I am under obligations for two exceedingly pleasant evenings, passed in their company, and it would give me great pleasure to thank each one, personally.

Partly from your advice, partly from the unusual number of Winter birds that I find at home, I have decided not to go to Florida, this year, and have already begun to collect. If I get "stuck" may I write you? Should you find time to reply to this note, will you give me your address? And I am also anxious to know whether you think I may find "princeps" in this vicinity; if so, when to look for it.

Respectfully, Your Friend
Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown N. C.
Feb. 3 - 1873

Portland, Me.
Feb 14. 1875.

Dear Mr Brewster:-

Your letter of Feb. 3. did not reach me till day before yesterday, for some unknown reason. When at your house I fully intended to purchase a copy of Audubon, and had almost decided to take yours at the very cheap price at which you offered it to me. But I have now so many projects for collecting, etc., that for the present I have given up the idea of buying. Many thanks for your kindness in notifying me before advertizing.

The exceedingly cold weather, rather than the deep snow, has kept me much in the house, but I have had my hands full in attending to the common birds, which, of course, are all acquisitions to me. I have also obtained several ducks in the market.

I've had some sport with the ornithologist of this locality, who has a marsh hawk labelled "accipiter fuscus", (he says its shins are sharp!) a female pin-tail, "gadwall", and other curiosities in nomenclature. For all this he is a first-class fellow, a splendid taxidermist, and really knows a great deal about birds. The possession of a short=eared owl, which is labelled "scops asio," gives him great satisfaction.

In his new book Dr Brewer honors you by the title of "one of our most promising young naturalists". I should think you would be overwhelmed. But what I want to get at is that he states you believe in *Turdus aliciae*;— do you? Mr Maynard does not, but it seems to me, judging entirely of course from written testimony, that it is a good species.

I have written to the post=

master upon the envelope, as I do not know any definite address.

With regards to all the gentlemen of the Nuttall Club, I remain ever

Your Sincere Friend
Nathan Clifford Brown.

Brown N. C.
Feb. 11 - 1875 -

Portland, Me.
March 1 1875.

Dear Mr Brewster:-

I received your letter of Feb. 21. in due season. When I get into trouble I shall certainly avail myself of your permission to apply to you for assistance.

Since I wrote you before I have made several excursions into the woods, and each time have come back thoroughly exhausted from wading through the deep snow, and with nothing of importance in my bag. On one occasion a magnificent bald eagle sailed by me, but out of gunshot.

Red crossbills were quite abundant up to Feb 2nd; on the 4th I took a female, and since then have seen none of this species. The day the warm weather began I was much interested in watching the grosbeaks. Instead of frequenting small larches and firs, as usual, they assembled in the tops of the great elms which grow on the summit of what we call Bramhall Hill. They were noisy and restless, keeping up a continual murmuring of notes and frequently flying off a short distance, high in the air, only to return however, to their former position. Occasionally one would give utterance to a musical but very short warble. This was on the 23rd, and I thought I should see no more grackles for the Winter a few, however, still remain.

Brown N.C. Mch 1 '75

Redpolls are exceedingly abund-
ant. [illegible] are also common
and goldfinches are also to
be found. A large number of
[illegible] have been seen here
lately, and one of my friends
[illegible] the [illegible]
it. A colony of those "rare"
[illegible] have been ob-
served in the city, from the
enclosed letter, which may in-
terest you.

Hoping to hear from
you again, I remain, with regards
to all the members of the N. O. C.

Ever your sincere friend
Nathan Clifford Brown

Written for the Portland Transcript.

FOREIGN VS. NATIVE BIRDS.

TO EDITORS OF THE TRANSCRIPT:—There seems to be little doubt that a colony of European sparrows has established itself with us, and small flocks can be seen daily in some parts of the city. People generally are disposed to welcome the little strangers, expecting that they will devour the caterpillars which destroy the foliage of our beautiful elms. If they are provided, as they have always been elsewhere, with comfortable boxes and materials for nests, and with food in cold weather, they will probably repay such kindness by doing their best towards exterminating the caterpillars. But let us encourage our native birds, by equal kindness, and will not the result be the same? The effect of "patronizing home industries" is shown upon the grounds of a gentleman in this city, where there are many beautiful shade trees, and caterpillars are very rarely seen. In this place, perhaps ten acres in extent, there were reared last year, to my knowledge, no less than forty broods of robins and different kinds of finches, besides other birds in proportion. The European sparrows are not needed there. The trouble usually is, that people who provide houses and boxes for the sparrows, never think of doing anything of the sort for our native birds.

But there is a decided objection to these foreigners, from the fact that they drive away our own sweet songsters. The testimony of such ornithologists as Mr. Ridgway, of the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Coues, author of the "Key to North American Birds," and many others, proves that robins, sparrows, etc., have entirely disappeared from localities where they were abundant before the introduction of the European birds. The latter, continually fighting amongst themselves, have repeatedly been seen to attack and drive away any other birds which might chance to appear within their adopted boundaries. And what have we in this pugnacious foreigner to compensate us for the loss of all our familiar feathered friends? A propensity for devouring caterpillars! Can we give up for this the delightful solo of the robin, the clear whistle of the oriole, and the exquisitely sweet warble of the bluebird? These, and many other songs that come to us in the spring, will be no longer heard, if the noisy new comers find a permanent dwelling place in our city. Let us hope they will not—that the present "cold wave" may effectually discourage them; and when spring comes, let us extend a warm welcome to our own birds, and we shall be repaid not only by a diminution of the caterpillars, but by an increase in the sweet songs we all love so well.

NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN.

Portland, Me., Feb. 13, 1875.

"It was now three o'clock; the prosecution closed, and, as we had been engaged in the trial since morning without intermission, I ordered a recess for an hour. Manley went over to his office, and, just as he got there, a stranger rode up. He was a plain-looking man, rather heavily built, with brown hair and sandy beard. He wore a gray shirt, broad-brimmed hat, a pair of overalls, and army shoes. His horse was a *bronco*, very wild and vicious, but he managed it like a *vaquero.* Evidently they had travelled for some distance, for the horse showed hard riding, and both man and beast were covered with dust. 'Is this Mr. Manley?' said the stranger. Manley told him that was his name. 'I saw your sign on the door,' said the man, 'as I came into town. I'm a stranger here, and want to consult a lawyer; as soon as I put my horse in the corral, I'll come back.' 'Very well,' said Manley, 'I'll wait for you.'

"In a few minutes, the stranger entered Manley's office. He told Manley that he was a cattle-man, and had a band near the upper end of Fox Valley, just over the county line; that he had paid his taxes on his cattle for that year in another county. He wished to bring his band into the lower end of the valley, which is in this county, where the feed was better, and wanted to know of Manley whether they would be liable to be assessed in this county, if he should. Manley examined his receipts and advised him. The stranger cheerfully paid him his fee, chatted for a few moments, and, as he was about to go, Manley mentioned that the express robbery case was on trial. The stranger had heard nothing of the matter, he said, and so Manley told him about it. 'Well,' said the stranger, 'there don't seem to be any doubt about convicting him, and I'm glad of it; if it was for me to sentence him, I'd have him hung to-morrow morning. I had trouble with one of his kind only a couple of weeks ago, but he got away, and took a horse, saddle, and bridle with him.

Portland, Maine.
June 5. 1875.

My dear Mr Brewster:

The Spring migrations are over, and on Monday I shall probably start for the very northern parts of the county for a week or ten days collecting. You may, perhaps, be interested to know what I have taken in the vicinity of the city, during the "season" which is past. My skins number 425, and I have very full notes for the "catalogue" which, you know, I hoped to prepare when I left Massachusetts.

Turdus is represented by all the species save "*aliciae*" and *mustelinus*. The Brown Thrush is quite rare. *Certhia familiaris* is rare at all seasons. Of the Sylvicolidae I have taken the following —

Mniotilta varia.
Parula americana.
Helminthophaga ruficapilla
Dendroica aestiva
" virens
" caerulescens

Dendroica coronata
blackburniae
striata
pennsylvanica
maculosa
palmarum
pinus
Seiurus aurocapillus
noveboracensis
Geothlypis trichas
Myiodioctes canadensis
Setophaga ruticilla

Of the above, *D. caerulescens* and *Seiurus noveboracensis* are rare. Of course all the Massachusetts swallows are common. Ampelis *cedrorum* did not arrive till the last of May.

I have taken but 3 of the Vireos,— *gilvus*, *solitarius* and *olivaceus*; *solitarius* is rare. Shrikes were rare till April, when they disappeared.

The following of the *Fringillidae* —

Pinicola enucleator
Carpodacus purpureus
Chrysomitris tristis
Loxia americana

Aegiothus linaria
Plectrophanes nivalis
Passerculus princeps (Mr Dilley)
savanna
Pooecetes gramineus
Melospiza melodia
palustris
Junco hyemalis
Spizella pusilla
socialis
monticola
Zonotrichia leucophrys
albicollis
Cyanospiza cyanea
Dol' oryzivorus
Molothrus pecoris

Of the above "Princeps" (of course) Spizella pusilla and Z. leucophrys are rare.

The following of the Flycatchers,—

Tyrannus carolinensis
Myiarchus crinitus
Sayornis fuscus
Contopus virens
Empidonax minimus,

Of the woodpeckers but 3,—downy, hairy and yellow-winged.

Large birds I have left almost entirely, wishing to make all the skins possible, and "big skins take time." 5 Least Bitterns have been taken by different persons!! I have but few Shore-birds, for my time has been for the most part spent in the woods. Some of the common birds such as the chickadee, bluebird etc, I do not mention above, for they are known to be abundant here.

Hoping you may find enough of interest in the above to excuse the scrawl; on my return from my expedition I will let you know of additional species! Can I find anything here which you would like in exchange for some of the Massachusetts birds which we do not have?

I should be much pleased to know what rare birds you have been taking, and whether any of our common species are rare with you.

Once more, please excuse this hasty scrawl, and give my kindest regards to all the "Club".

Ever Your Sincere Friend

Nathan Clifford Brown.

Brown C. N.
June 5 – 1875

Portland, Me.
June 18. 1875.

Dear Mr Brewster—

Returning from my Cornish trip, yesterday, I found your letter of the ninth awaiting me. You have surely done a splendid season's work; I felt quite small, in comparison, until I realised that, when one *begins* to collect, he cannot afford to spend all his time in search of rare birds. I was rather disappointed in Cornish as a collecting field. The country is one of rolling hills with sparse growths of hard=wood; within a radius of two miles there are few *woods*. Such a locality would, of course, produce a few characteristic birds, but all too few. I especially noticed the almost entire absence of birds of prey. The most abundant warbler was *D. pennsylvanica*, although *blackburniae* was common. I took a single specimen of *D. tigrina*,— a good note, I thought, for Verrill did not take it at Norway. I also secured a ♂ *Emp. traillii*, ♂ *Actiturus bartramius* with eggs, ♀ *Chordeiles popetue* with eggs, and better series of many of our rarer Portland birds, particularly of the Tyrannidae. I am now going to devote most of my time to the sea and shore birds.

I am rather sorry to hear of the end of "C. J. Maynard & Co." though all that I learned with them, in regard to taxidermy, had to be unlearned when I began collecting.

Should you make an easterly tour this year don't fail to make our house your headquarters during your stay in Portland. I've "lots" of things to display and many to ask. —

I remain ever

Your Sincere Friend
Nathan Clifford Brown.

P. S. I have, at present, no duplicates of nests and eggs, but will write you when I have.

Brown N. C.
June 18 – /75

"Glen Cove," C. E.
Aug. 11 1875.

Dear Mr. Brewster

I received yesterday the [illegible] of "The Birds of [illegible]" which you so kindly sent me. They must have [illegible] a good deal [illegible] [illegible] time. I have not succeeded in obtaining any of the southern list yet, so that [illegible] unavoidably delayed.

Through the warm weather [illegible] when [illegible] last letter I have been [illegible]. Wood birds are [illegible] I have [illegible] [illegible] with it. [illegible] more and more charmed with my [illegible] the [illegible] college [illegible]

Cornish is in York County, Me., separated from the north-western border of Cumberland by the Saco River, and from the South ern border of Oxford Co. by the Railway, it is but little South of Norway. All the boats which are running are [illegible] in Norway [illegible] head at Portland, although some of them [illegible]

Mr Willey, the [illegible], tells me that you called at the shop not long ago. Now I know — [illegible] had not mistaken your name likewise. And [illegible] I should feel very much slighted that you did not call to see me. If you do come to Portland this Summer, I shall expect you to call at No. 40 Exchange St., [illegible] to my father and [illegible] you [illegible]. I [illegible] to go home to college this Fall and I want you to see my [illegible] before I leave. Term begins in September, and with your permission I shall continue to Cambridge [illegible] write [illegible] and [illegible] before you [illegible] prepare to [illegible] for [illegible] years. — I remain,

Ever Your True Friend
Nathan Clifford Brown

[illegible] write, [illegible]
[illegible] as usual.

Brown N. C.
Aug. 11 – '75

Portland, Maine.
Sept 5. 1875.

Dear Mr Brewster:—

I had hardly received your last letter when we began the task of moving from "Glen Cove" to the city. The day following our arrival my brother and myself started for my uncle's country seat in Falmouth, and I have just gotten once more settled at home. My collection is increased by two Seiurus ludovicianus ♂ and ♀; one, ♂ im., Butorides virescens; a Tringites rufescens not yet in hand, and, best of all, a ♀ Micropalama himantopus. I have also collected several less rare birds.

You see I hardly could have visited you in Aug. Until term-time I shall make my headquarters at home, with the exception of short expeditions to the marsh etc. Term begins the 23rd. I am very anxious that you should come to see me, if convenient to you, before that. The marsh-shooting has been behind the average, thus far, and should you come soon, I think we might make some good bags, for the birds always come in force before Oct. 1st. I can steal but one day for my long looked for visit to you, but shall employ that day in talking very fast. I am unable to say when I shall be able to go, for I've many engagements pending, but we will talk over much when I see you at "Bramhall Side", which will be very soon, I trust.

Pardon this very hurried scrawl.

Your Sincere Friend
Nathan Clifford Brown

Olean N. Y.
Sept. 5 - 18

Portland, Me.
July 5. 1876.

Dear Mr Brewster:—

The long time that has elapsed since I wrote to you last has been a busy one for me, and rather eventful, for my father has finally decided to give up my college course. A little sorry and a good deal glad I am once more at home, ready to begin collecting again as soon as I am relieved from my present physical disability, —a couple of lame knees. You see, near the close of our Spring vacation (the most of which I devoted to collecting at Brunswick), I came home, at the earnest solicitation of Ira Crocker my best of friends, to get some duck-shooting in Scarboro'. But bad luck attended me from the first; not only did the wind blow steadily from the North, and spoil my sport, but I strained and then caught cold in both knees, from the effects of which little accident I have been disabled ever since. Thanks to iodine and bandages, I am now on the rapid road to recovery.

You can readily understand that college exercises and crippled knees gave me little opportunity to do good field work; however I have continued to make some three hundred skins, not a few of them additions to my cabinet. My success is almost wholly attributable to the accident of having one of those unusually good bird years which are of periodical occurrence.

My only additions which are rare are ♀ *Den. blackburniae*, ♂ *Den. castanea*, 4 ♂s *Zon. leucophrys*, and a fair series of *D'ae blackburniae* and *caerulescens*, ♂s.

Do you remember my speaking of a sandpiper shot by my brother, which I was muddled about and thought might be *Tr. bairdii*? I have sent this bird to you for identification, in accordance with the permission which you gave me. If it is rare, and it makes no difference to you, I should like to keep it quiet till next Winter when I expect to get out my "catalogue".

I should have written earlier in the season, but Frank Crocker, on his return from the Lakes, told me that he met you there and that you should remain till July 1st.

Please remember me to the members of the N. O. C., and believe me ever

Your Sincere Friend
Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown N. C.
July 3 1876

Portland, Me.
July 15. 1876.

Dear Mr Brewster:-
Your letter of the 7th duly received. Accept my sympathy for your confinement. My own continues, unchanged save that I am kept still closer.

Your assurance of the identity of my sandpiper delighted me. Though convinced that it was peculiar and rare I awaited your decision with fear and trembling. While on the subject of rarities, I want to ask you if you think a catalogue of the birds of this vicinity would be welcome to the ornithological world. You are perhaps hardly aware of the great number of erroneous statements that are current regarding the birds which do or do not come so far North as Portland. There are many small collectors in the state who would be pleased to see such a catalogue, because of the altogether wrong dates of arrival, nesting and departure of species, which have been given in Samuel's celebrated compilation etc.; but whether ornithologists care equally for the correction of these errors in statement or opinion, I don't know,— you undoubtedly do.

I have a little secret which shall in due time be published, but which I am sure will interest you so much that I give it to you. What do you think of the barn owl in a catalogue of Maine birds? It is entitled to a place therein on the strength of a specimen which I have but just examined with great interest and covetousness. For nine years it has lain in an old box at the taxidermist's, uncared for till a few weeks ago, when once more it was brought to light. I should have secured it but for a gentleman who is getting up a collecti of birds and who anticipates me a few days.

If the aforesaid catalogue is a desirable thing, how had it best be published? Can I derive a slight addition to my income from it, or do authors of such *brochures* consider themselves fortunate if their purses are not too much depleted?

I should hardly call the petrels common hereabouts; one must strike out into the open sea to find them at all. The taxidermists rarely get a specimen but they sometimes are seen in large numbers by passengers on the boat which plies between our City and Eastport. By this time I had expected to be investigating these and other sea-birds myself, but my aggravating knees compel me to keep quiet.

I remain,
Sincerely Your Friend
Nathan Clifford Brown

P. S.
The orthography of our street is Vaughan.

Brown N. C.
July 17/1876

"Glen Cove"
Cape Elizabeth, Me.
Aug 24. 1876.

Dear Mr Brewster:—

Since the receipt of your letter bearing the recipe for the destruction of insects, I have enjoyed a brief period of activity,— enjoyed it to the full as you will readily believe. Once again however, my knees have "shut down" upon me, and field-work is postponed indefinitely.(1) The results of the little work I accomplished are about 125 skins and a small catechism of questions for you. But I beg you to believe that I should bother you much less frequently, were it not for the constant encouragement I receive in your oft-received replies. I have discovered(2) a breeding ground of Leach's petrel on one of the islands in the bay, and taken about a dozen squabs in different stages of plumage, as well as a few eggs. If you have no squabs (as I inferred from one of your later letters), I should be glad to give you one in exchange for almost anything. Two young terns which I got yesterday, have stuck me for identification: one is a squab with orange-red feet and the bill of St. hirundo; the other three-quarters grown, with dirty flesh-colored feet, and a black bill, with the posterior half of the maxilla orange. What are they?

The only uncommon things I have taken are 4 adult Den. castanea, 2 juv. Den. tigrina, 2 juv. Str. interpres and several Den. blackburniae. I have secured an old ♀ gannet, which Dr. Coues would call "not rare, but inaccessible."

On the 7th inst. I shot a young Den. coronata only partly fledged. Does not this point pretty conclusively to its nesting here? Should you not consider the occurrence of Den. castanea, old and young, on August 1st, proof presumptive of the breeding of the species within the county limits? Coronata is a bird of Sept. and Oct. generally.

Can you give me the address of the secretary of each of the societies which you named as the best under the auspices of which to publish my list? Look graciously upon my timidity, but tell me what you think of my capability to write such a list with my present short experience. That it will be far from complete, that the notes on many species will be much less full than they ought to be, I am too well aware; I expect only to contribute a few facts to Ornithology, by no means to write an ornithological biography of all the species within my collecting ground. With your approbation of my plan, I shall be quite content to face the criticisms of the fraternity.

Please give me a little additional knowledge as to the solution of sublimate. Does constant use of a skin wear off the incrustation, and necessitate another application?

I remain ever

Your Sincere Friend

Nathan Clifford Brown.

Brown N. C.
Aug 24 - 1876

Portland, Me.
Sept. 9. 1876.

Dear Mr. Brewster:-

Yours of Aug. 29 I received just before our family left "Glen Cove" for the season. My young petrels make a complete series, so that I cannot well send you more than one at present, but Mr. E. N. Atwood who accompanied me on my second visit to the Green Islands had two which I obtained by the promise of some Southern birds in exchange. In our combined series there is little variation between the specimens except in size, until the down is shed and the feathers appear beneath; of this last stage we have but a single example.

I have sent the three birds to you

by express. Please return what you think best. Atwood has a preference for warblers, I for the small waders. Let me recommend you, when you unwrap the squabs, to puff at them several times to loosen the down; it will improve their (at best) shabby appearance.

As to where I found the nests. Most of them on the larger of the two Green Islands, where they were built like those of the bank swallow into the perpendicular North, East and South-West sides of the island. They were generally almost inaccessible, sometimes absolutely so. On the smaller island the nests were more often entered from the flat ground on the edge of the cliffs. I have been closely questioning sailors and sportsmen about several other islands whereon I have suspected the petrels of nesting, and have good reasons to anticipate finding other breeding grounds, as soon as providence may permit me to move about again.

My specimens of Den. castanea taken up to the 7th of August are in unmottled Spring plumage. Three or four birds shot about the 21st of that month present the appearance you described in specimens taken at the lake. Does this throw any light upon the question of their breeding in my neighborhood?

I am very glad that I appealed to you for advice about publishing my notes. I am determined to wait until my memoranda are larger and more valuable, or until I find myself unable to carry my investigations further.

Shall you collect at the lake, this Autumn? That best of good fellows, Ira Crocker, has invited me to be one of his party at Moll's Rock, and with the kind permission of providence I shall go.

Very Sincerely Yours

Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown N.C.
Sept. 8, 1871

Portland, Me.
Nov 7. 1876.

Dear Mr. Brewster:—

Since my return from the Lake, three weeks ago, I have been so steadily employed that I have been unable to find time to write to you. During my stay at the Lake I accomplished little, for the unusually high water spoiled the duck-shooting and my lameness prevented me from tramping. The only bird that I cared about I lost through a double miss-fire of my gun,— *Passerculus princeps* which I ran upon one evening at sundown, on the North side of Moose Point.

For two weeks after reaching home I worked quite actively, and then had to quiet down again. My best things were: *P. princeps* 5 sp., *Nyctea nivea* ♀, *Porzana noveboracensis* ♂, *Fulica americana* juv., *Passer domestica* (in the back yard!) and *Ammodromus caudacutus* ♀. Am I not the first to take the last in this state? My "princeps" were all this year's birds; one of them is the darkest I have seen, much darker than my Spring specimens, and almost as dark as some specimens of *P. savanna*.

Mr Everett Smith, has, I hear (so he says) in his collection of marsh birds a reeve which he shot on our marsh several years ago. Since I last saw him, his brother tells me that he has taken it to Boston and identified it beyond a doubt. This would make your specimen the second taken in the state.

Concerning our exchange: I should like specimens of Aeg. wilsoni, Seiurus ludovicianus, Helminthurus vermivorus, or of any other Southern birds.

Do you want to tell me some of the secrets of your taxidermy? I remember you once told me that you stuffed the cavities of your birds' eyes from the outside, with chopped cotton — what is "chopped cotton"? Do you use annealed wire? Mr. Maynard taught me to use it, but I could always work better with stiff wire, except in the case of large birds. — I remain

Very Truly Yours
Nathan Clifford Brown.

Brown N. C.
Nov. 7 - 1876

bBr 111.10.1 (17)

Portland, Maine
Nov. 18. 1876.

Dear Mr. Brewster:—

Your interesting and very kind letter of the 13th arrived in due season. I had half anticipated the secret of your wonderful success in taxidermy. I think, and I have no doubt you do, judging from your work, that after a bird stands naturally, the smoother he is the more closely he is vivified. When I first began to study birds, long before I thought of making a collection, I used to wonder at the perfect regularity with which their feathers were disposed, when they were alive. It seems to me that a bird ruffled with the cold is marvellously smooth, every feather being raised in the same direction and to the same extent. But stuffed birds were always miserable disappointments to me, artistically, until I saw yours, and then I almost lost my interest in ornithology in a great desire to be such an artist as you. Even now I can remember the appearance of almost every one of your birds.

Snowy owls have visited us in the same unusual numbers in which you have had them along the Massachusetts coast. The largest number that came into the city at one time to one man was twenty-seven. Scores of them have been shot and left to rot where they fell.

I have sent several notes to the Bulletin, for I think my list is a thing of the far future. Speaking of *Tr. bairdii* I said my specimen was the first ever taken "on the coast of Maine." It has since struck me that the statement may be interpreted to mean "the first taken in Maine", which is far from the meaning I intended to convey. If the expression appears ambiguous to you, won't you correct it in some way?

After reading Mr. Ingersoll's article on the Kinglets I looked up my notes on the subject. *R. satrapa* remains in the deep pine and spruce woods hereabouts, all the year round. It is not at all rare in Summer. I have seen the old birds feeding young by Aug. 1, so that it surely breeds here, but I have never found a nest. Is this any addition to "our" knowledge on the subject? *R. calendula* I have never seen in Summer.

I shot a very peculiar snowbird about a week ago. The sides are washed with pinkish instead of with ashy, the black of the breast is marked by a con~~cave~~vex boundary instead of the usual concave one. It is a young ♀, but my other young ♀s are washed along the sides by ashy. I should think it *Junco oregonus* but for the fact that the black of the breast (in this case brownish) does not extend so far towards the belly as in the only specimen of J. virginiana that I have. I should send it to you, but somewhat unluckily ~~that~~ the cat got possession of it last evening as I left it on my table, and tore it to pieces. I have saved the pieces but they are beyond the power of my skill. What do you think the bird was?

I have taken a position in my father's office for the Winter, and, probably, for some time to come. With me however, business will be only a means towards the real end of my life — ornithologizing. I am pretty well convinced that there is little money in science except for men whose lives are spent over the study-table elaborating the work that others have accomplished in the field. To work to your own satisfaction you must be backed by money; therefore, business for a while.

Faithfully Yours
Nathan Clifford Brown

P.S. Since writing the above I have received a young S. hawk-owl from Bethel.
N.C.B.

Brown N. C.
Nov. 18–1876

Portland, Maine
Dec. 16. 1876.

Dear Mr. Brewster:—

Yours of Dec 3rd arrived in due season. For five weeks I have kept the city without a day's absence, except Thanksgiving-day which I spent in the woods. I found creepers, nuthatches and crossbills in abundance upon that occasion, but I am quite sure that no grosbeaks have yet visited our neighborhood. I saw two redpolls about the second week in November, but none since, nor have I heard of the occurrence of any, as I certainly should have done, had they appeared hereabouts.

I am quite satisfied with the disposition made of my notes. I am not at all particular as to the manner in which they appear,— facts, if worth publishing, being more important than modes of expression.

I do not remember how much I told you of the capture of the duck-hawk. Mrs Fessenden caught it in her waterproof cloak while it was feeding upon a pet pigeon which it killed on her piazza. Damick, one of our taxidermists, mounted it, and the lady has it in her possession.

I have lately spent most of my evenings in drawing with pencil and India ink, and I have been much surprised at the success I have met with in consideration of the fact that I know nothing of the science of the thing. I mean to attempt water-colors before long. I shall favor you with a specimen for criticism, after I level a few of the mountains in my way. While on this subject it occurs to me that you may be able to tell me of the whereabouts of Mr Farley, who, you remember, painted a ring-neck for me at Newtonville.

The remains of my *Junco* are scarcely worth sending to you, but I am pretty well convinced that it is (or was) an unusually "intermediate" example of *J. hyemalis*. It seems to me that all of the U.S. *Juncoes* ought to be classed as varieties of one species. Certainly their specific differences are no greater than the varietal differences between others of our birds. But what a peculiar condition our technical nomenclature is in; if "sub-species" are to be added to varieties, we shall soon be delightfully tangled up. Isn't "Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea" a trinomial appellation?

Mr Deane has given me a new idea. He is engaged in collecting photographs of his ornithological friends, as you probably know. I have appropriated his idea, and begin work by asking you if you will send me one of your photographs.

If the Bulletin has more articles than it can easily use, I would its size might be increased; or, better, that it might appear monthly. How large a subscription list have you; enough to pay all bills?
— I remain

Very truly yours
Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown N. C.
Dec. 16 - 1876

Portland, Me.
Jan 26. 1877.

Dear Mr. Brewster:—

I have at last been able to make an examination of the supposed reeve of which I told you, some time ago. To the best of my knowledge it is certainly a specimen of *Machetes pugnax*, and a very fine one. Its fortunate possessor has the advantage of having frequently seen the species in Europe, and makes no doubt of its identity. I showed him your note in the first "Bulletin", and asked him to write a notice of his bird.

I think your note on the sharp-tailed finch the most interesting item the "Bulletin" has produced. For several months I have been reading all kinds of literature relating to the north-east provinces of Canada, with the intention of selecting a locality for ornithological exploration, and, curiously enough, had pitched upon Prince Edward's Island before you note appeared. You will hardly credit me when I say that I was convinced I should find *Am. caudacutus* there. The birds which I met with in Scarboro' were found in a place where they did not breed, as I determined, in Spring, by examining every inch of the ground thereabouts.

Have you not fallen into an error in regard to the Southern range of *Den. maculosa*? in the breeding season? It nests about Portland commonly; more commonly than *Den. pennsylvanica*. I have a nest with one egg, and a series of young from the earliest stage. During my assiduous collecting, last Summer, I found old and young more abundant than those of any species except *D. virens.*

I wish all the facts known of the history of *P. princeps* might be collected and published. I have the idea, formed from the scattered notes in my possession, that specimens were taken before Mr Maynard described the species, and referred to *P. savanna.* Do you know where it winters? Has the species lately come into existence, or is it probable that northern collectors have repeatedly, though unwittingly met with it in their expeditions?

I have been trying, all Winter, to get up some interest in ornithology among fellows outside of the Nat. Hist. Society, and met with so much success that five young men meet at my house once a week to master the initia to a knowledge of technical ~~knowledge~~ ornithology. They are all enthusiastic sportsmen, between twenty and thirty years of age, and just the men to make splendid workers in the field. Our Nat. Hist. Society is "run" by a set of old fogies who accomplish nothing, save to label their specimens incorrectly and obstruct the advance of science so far as in them lies; so that I don't wonder that nothing has been done here for so long.

My opportunities for work, next season, will probably be very limited. I have hardly gotten under weigh yet, at the office, and every moment is fully occupied.

I remain,

Very truly yours
Nathan Clifford Brown.

Brown N. C.
Jan. 26-1877

Portland, Maine
Feb 17, 1877.

Dear Mr Brewster:—

Your letter of the 8th inst was duly received. I sent you at once an Autumnal specimen of *D. principis*, being very glad of an opportunity to add *Vireo philadelphicus* to my collection.

Our weekly meetings for ornithological study are much too informal to warrant us in forming a club, far less a society in "opposition" to the N.O.C. With a single exception not one of my friends is able to collect systematically, but they all mean to do something towards clearing up the uncertainty which fills the books as to the birds of our neighborhood.

All through the Winter I have been rather unwell, and, a week ago, met with a break-down, which caused my father to send me out of the office and bid me resume my collecting again. Rather a humiliating disappointment to a young man who had ambitiously resolved to work very hard and make money to support himself in his scientific pursuits. But since I became convinced that Providence had not blessed me with a constitution to endure assiduous indoor work, I have become accustomed to disappointments. I may certainly congratulate myself that I have one beloved pursuit which takes me into the open air. Just now I am continually experiencing a peculiar bounding of spirit when I anticipate the coming season's work, — in very happy contrast to my expected dull Spring in the office. I mean to devote my most careful attention to the shore-birds and gulls. There is certainly greater opportunity for original investigation amongst them than elsewhere.

By a very close shave, a gerfalcon, shot on Cape Elizabeth, the 13th inst. has been saved to science. It was killed by a country boy and brought to my friend Daniels for preservation and the owner confessed that he should have thrown it away had he not thought it an owl. By some outrageous subterfuge Daniels obtained the bird, and it goes to Bates College Museum. I have captured the sternum.

Your photograph was right welcome. Since I may have no chance to get taken for some time I send you one of mine taken a year ago.

Can you give ~~my~~ me a formula to distinguish, absolutely, full-fledged young of Emp. traillii, minimus and flaviventris? They seem to me very close. — I remain

Very truly yours
Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown N. C
Feb. 17–1877

Portland, Me.
Nov. 2. 1877.

Dear Mr Brewster:—

I was heartily glad to receive your letter of Oct 29th. As you frankly own, you are entirely to blame for the big gap in our correspondence, for I have your promise to write me after your return from Florida; and, moreover, I haven't had the faintest idea whither to direct a letter in order to reach you. However, I am right willing to "forgive and forget," as you say.

It has been an 'off-year' for birds of every description, from early Spring until now. I have noticed it particularly amongst my old-time favorites, the Snakes.

We usually have a large flight of Macrorhamphus in the latter part of May, but the past season brought only a very few stragglers. I made no captures even moderately rare until August, when I shot a specimen each of Microp. himantopus, Tr. rufescens and Num. hudsonicus. The first two of these very unluckily spoiled before I could skin them. I have been disappointed in my partial success with T. [illegible]. It has taken a regular, daily tramp since Oct 15 to yield me three specimens, whereas, last year, I bagged five in two days,— the only two days, if I am not mistaken, that I searched for them at all. Prof. Stanton, of Lewiston, has written for my best pair, but seeing that the season is not yet ever, I hope to be able to send you two also. Deane doubtless told you about my partial albinos (one each of Sp. *socialis* and Am. *caudacutus*). I have sent them to him, so that you will have an opportunity to examine them. — *Amm. caudacutus* reached the marshes in *abundance* about Oct. 1. Isn't it very remarkable that my utmost vigilance has failed to detect it in Spring or Summer?

I have the heartfelt sense of sympathy for your renewed lameness. I thoroughly realize what an insufferably cursed thing it is to be mentally bedraggled by a constant, hounding doubt as to ultimate recovery. My own small stock of philosophy is evidently demanded. But I have one big

rousing science that I hope
you share with me, and
that is music. With me it is
first, Ornithology; second, Music.

In the last letter that I
received from you, you asked
me to find out the "varietas" of
the gyr-falcon which had just
been taken here. It was var.
islandicus.—I remain,

Yours faithfully
Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown N. C.
Nov. 2, 1881

Brown N. C.
Nov. 11. 77

Portland
Nov. 11. 1877.

Dear Mr Brewster:—

I have been for a long time trying to find a place, within the [illegible] where I can spend the Winter collecting and have at last pitched upon Texas as the most desirable state in respect to climate, good sites and uncommon birds. Stationed, too, amongst the army officers I have quite a number of friends and relatives.

But there is one point to be definitely settled before I make up my mind to go, and that is, (I see you smiling) can I make it pay? not in experience, practice or good notes, but in hard luck. And for information beside your experience on this subject I have come to you, this time. I shall have to make you a confident, as a patient his physician, so that you may see the case in all its bearings.

Hides: Amongst the correspondents to whom I have sent my skins is a gentleman who has made the tour of the principal European museums and has sent boxes of said skins across the water. He himself and his correspondents abroad are pleased with

my style of preparation, and
instigated by hints and ad-
vice from him as well as
by my own inclinations I
have had it in view for
some time to go into some
promising foreign country
to collect and write. But
I could scarcely make a
success of it as a cripple,
and to bridge over the gap
(perhaps a very wide one)
that is sure to exist between
time present and this possible
new departure, I want to
attempt something which
will at least pay expenses,
so that my father may be
more inclined to favor the
grand expedition by and by.

I propose to be gone on this
Texas trip six months or a
year, — long enough to make
two or three thousand skins.
Your dealers at No 15 Arch
St. have expressed their willing-
ness to take a large amount
or all that I may collect.
Now, will it be for my advan-
tage to give them the lot at
a fair price, or endeavor to
dispose of them to different
individuals, or what?

Will it pay?

I await any advice you can
give with anxiety.

Have taken one more P. principalis. I send
you a ♀ tomorrow. Please accept it as an
expression of my heartiest friendship.

Very truly yours
Arthur Clifford Brown

P. S. Have just
received a fine lot of
Massena quail
from a [illegible]
friend, [illegible]
[illegible]

N. C. B.
Brown N. C.
Nov. 18 1877

Portland,
Nov 18. 1877.

Dear Mr Brewster:—

You have my heartiest thanks for the thorough manner in which you have responded to my application for advice. I shall be far better able to arrange for the proposed trip than before. It was very kind in you, as well, to offer to take care of my friend; you certainly shall have the choice of any puppies I may be lucky enough to procure.

The Pinicola was intended as a donum absolutum;

I am sorry you thought it necessary to make me any return for it. However, your skins form a beautiful addition to my cabinet, — the Selasphorus being particularly apropos in view of the recent papers in the Bulletin on the species. By the way, who is this Elliot? He seems to have flashed suddenly and brilliantly into ornithology.

Do you remember that, when I was at Newtonville Mr Maynard found a curious grouse in Boston market, which you and several other gentlemen had quite a discussion about? I have never heard of it since; what did you finally decide it to be?

I have for a long time intended to ask you about the date which you attributed to my Spring finches in No 2 of Vol. 1 of the Bulletin. It is there printed "March 15". Is that a typographical error, or did that wretched scamp ~~of~~ Nilley tell you that was the proper date? The bird was really killed on the 20th of March. (Nilley went to smash about a year ago, and fled his bills to some unknown locality. I lately saw in a newspaper that a James Nilley had been arrested in San Francisco for making incendiary speeches to the populace. Likely enough the same fellow.)

While I am on dates and princeps I may as well attempt to clear up another mystery. You say, through the Bulletin above mentioned, "the first, a male, was taken by Mr. M. at Ipswich, April 15 '74, and the second by Mr Tilley." Yet I have a letter from Maynard, dated in the Spring of '75, in which he says "I got one (princeps) last year about April 12, — I think it least, as late as that, for it was a late Spring."

Keep an eye, thro' the Winter, on the columns of Forest and Stream. A very rare bird was taken near Portland by one of my friends, last Spring. He won't let me have the note for the Bulletin, but promises to publish it, in F. & S. — Deane saw the specimen, on his flying visit to me, last Summer, but is solemnly pledged to secrecy.

Yours heartily

Nathan Clifford Brown

Portland, Maine.
Dec. 5. 1877.

Dear Mr Brewster:—

You last letter duly rec'd. I reply promptly to make sure of reaching you before you start for Cal.

In spite of vexatious delays and uncertainties I hope to get away to some southern state about Jan 1. Ought I to take out ammunition if I ultimately decide to go no farther than Alabama? Can it be checked and carried safely? All other supplies I suppose it is best to take with me, any way. When in Ga. did you work in your room?

Before you start on your own journey, won't you send me your future address?

I will drop you a line before I leave. I hope you won't expect too much of me: you know I am a cripple and am doing bravely if I keep on my feet an hour in the course of a whole day.

Chris. prime in force at Orono, — none here.

In great haste
Yours as ever
Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown N.C.
Dec. 5-1877

Portland, Maine.
Dec 11. 1877.

Dear Mr Brewster:—

I have been quite unwell since the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst. or should have replied sooner.

I shall be very glad indeed to have you visit me, but it will surely be unnecessary to limit your stay "to an hour or two". Come whenever most convenient to yourself and drop me a line beforehand so that I may meet you at the depot,— vicariously, at all events, if I should be unable to go in propria persona. You will find my duplicate series very much depleted: I have distributed a collection of about fifty mounted birds amongst my friends, and swapped and sold the major part of to my duplicate skins,— to make room for my expected Winter's work. But it will give me a great deal of pleasure to have my type collection — or modo *Brewster* — overhauled by your critical hand. I think, too, you will find the sight of a certain handsome gull at the taxidermist's shop almost recompense enough for your journey thither.

Texas begins to look very hazy, and it is probable that my objective point for the Winter will be found in some other southern state less remote. My father indeed, flatly refuses to give his consent to my going anywhere until my cheeks regain some of the chubbiness they showed when I saw you last, — before that disastrous return to college.

I have been employing some

of my valueless time in plodding through Minot's book, - the Birds of N. E. It seems to me I never tackled anything so pretentious and so absolutely worthless and even ludicrous. Deane tells me its author is a Harvard Fresh; - can't you recommend him as a most eligible subject to the Sophomores?

I believe I have never told you how sore I am on the subject of *petrels*, my pen being restrained and my tongue tied by circumstances. I am anxious to see you on this subject, as well as on many others.

Can't you get Deane to come and visit me with you? Judging from the tone of his letters I fear that he is indulging to much in the fruit ities of society, and needs to be recalled to loftier aims.

I shall hope to see you before many days; meanwhile believe me

Yours sincerely
Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown N. C.
Dec. 11-1877

Coosada, Elmore County, Ala.
Feb. 3. 1878.

Dear Mr Brewster —

Your scholarly but somewhat laconic letter of Jan 21st has been forwarded to me from Portland. Please [illegible] [illegible] you, to remind me of my duty towards you as a correspondent, or literally, "a favour in your [illegible]." Since you wrote me in middle Jan! I have been seriously unwell, but a fortnight in Alabama has so far benefited me that I am now able to attend to my most pressing correspondence.

Although [illegible] many [illegible] company I shall suppress the catalogue of my happiest experiences during the fall months and will give you a brief description of the vicinity of Coronda Station before taking up our favorite subject.

First however, you must know that an old friend of mine Mr. J. A. Bond accompanied me hither from Portland and has here practically made his debut as a collector. ([illegible])

We are lodged at Col. Long's house in Coronda — the first station south of Montgomery on the South and North R.R. There is really no settlement here and the station house stands alone in the woods in a place chosen because of its propinquity to the plantations of several gentlemen.

Although so near the capital of the State we are in a great pine forest which is almost virgin except where the planters have made their comparatively small clearings. Within a couple of miles of the Colonel's house is one of the numerous forks of the Alabama River and the branches and creeks which are tributary to it give rise to a growth of hard wood trees which break the monotony of the pine woods. The country is level, with nothing that can be called a hill for miles around.

The catalogue of our avian Winter residents shows it to be limited. I shall give it to you in full, because I don't believe that much, if any, is unknown to you. Being "in full" by which, of course, you will understand "according to the observations of N.C.B."

Large flocks of Robins and —

are found in certain localities.

Picus pileatus is not very common. Harpo. rufus and Mi. polyglottus are common.

Regulus satrapa, uncommon. R. calendula not so much so.

S. Sialis, abundant.

Lophophanes bicolor, abundant. Parus carolinensis common.

Sitta carolinensis et pusilla, com-

Certhia familiaris, rather common.

Thryothorus ludovicianus, common; the [illegible].

Anorthura hyemalis rather common.

Dendroica pinus very common; the [illegible] in full song.

Den. coronata common.

Ampelis cedrorum, common locally.

Lanivireo solitarius, 2 [illegible].

Collurio ludovicianus, [illegible] taken a week ago.

Chrysp. tristis & Carp. purpureus com.

The following sparrows are more or less common. P. savanna, Me. melodia

R
Brown
Feb 3/1878

Junco hyemalis, Spizella socialis et pusilla, Zon. albicollis, Pas. iliaca.

Cardinalis virginianus and Pipilo erythrophthalmus are both abundant.

Agelaius phoeniceus, S. ferrugineus and Q. purpureus, also St. magna, common locally.

Corvus americanus, not common.

Cyanura cristata, abundant.

Sayornis fuscus, rather common.

Hylotomus pileatus, not common.

Picus borealis abundant. Pic. pubescens et villosus not common.

Sphyrapicus varius, common.

Centurus carolinus, not common.

M. erythrocephalus. [illegible] several.

Colaptes auratus, common.

We have seen no owls and only one hawk,— *Nisus cooperi*, I think. Both species of vultures are common.

Zenaidura carolinensis, common.

Ortyx virginianus, common.

Sportsmen tell me that there are few herons and ducks about the river. We shall try to look them up in a few days.

I shall be glad to receive ~~any~~ advice from you in reference to looking up any particular species or department. — Pardon me, in haste,

Yours very truly,
Nathan Clifford Brown

Coosada, Elmore County, Alabama
March 1, 1878.

Dear Mr Brewster:—

Your letter of Feb 24 reached me this morning.

Jo and myself have been doing some good work since I sent you the list of Coosada Winter birds; just how good I can't say, in the absence of my library. Perhaps you will tell me.

We have taken two ♂ of Dendroeca dominica, three specimens of Coturniculus henslowi, four of C. lecontei, two of Thryothorus bewickii and a ♂ Helminthophaga celata. Particularly these birds to have only come very much de-

[illegible]. I hardly know what to think of our yellowfooted specimen of C. [illegible]. Is it not a distinct species?

This morning about a dozen swans flew over the house northward, constantly uttering their familiar cries. I heard them for distance a long way, and I [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. They seemed to [illegible] its clubs [illegible]. Were they not [illegible]?

You must add to my list the following: _Podiceps holboellii_, _Ereunetes [illegible]_, _Gallinago Wilsonii_, _Chordeiles_ minor, _Aegialitis wilsonia_, _Anthus ludovicianus_.

All birds which we have taken up to this date are, I am confident, Winter residents or transient. However no signs yet of the unmistakable Spring flight. The weather has been cold, and yesterday we had a severe frost. Today's warming, however, and the appearance of violets and anemones on the meadow, leads me to hope for busy times before many days.

I began work on Jan 22, and have made nearly 300 skins. Have I done well enough? My horse bothers me sadly about collecting and it is uncomfortable for me to go out of the neighborhood for any satisfaction. In other respects I am much better off than when I left home. Jo makes a first-rate collector.

Your letter of Dec. 17 has reached me since I wrote you from this place, having hunted me at Montgomery before reaching n two.

I have almost forgotten to congratulate you upon your marriage. I cannot do so heartily for I know that only a very lucky woman could ever thus become Mrs William Brewster.

My correspondents have been doubled by my temporary change of residence and I [illegible] my letter in this form.

Yours very truly
Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown, N. C.
March 1, 1878.

[illegible], [illegible] Co., Mo.
[illegible] 25 1875.

Dear Mr [illegible] —
Yours of the [illegible]
[illegible] duly rec'd and [illegible]
[illegible] with a great deal of
pleasure [illegible]

The first [illegible] of the [illegible]
[illegible] on the 15th
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
the weather has been rather [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] the difference. [illegible]
[illegible]
the 19th and [illegible]
[illegible]

Two additional specimens of one different [illegible] have been brought to bag, making two pairs of [illegible]. Beside these I killed, but [illegible] impossibility of preservation, two [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Both species are difficult to procure, and generally have to be shot on the wing at [illegible] range. They inhabit [illegible] fields overgrown with low bushes.

I have not [illegible] a buzzard [illegible] shell. I [illegible] [illegible] too precious. Day before yesterday I found [illegible] nest of the black [illegible] on the [illegible]. We have [illegible] nest of [illegible] and one nest of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible].

of the fishes [illegible] to [illegible] are
the common [illegible] [illegible],
though we have taken two varieties
of [illegible] [illegible] I can say
positively, for my other [illegible] has been
not [illegible] [illegible] today.

Glad to hear that your [illegible]
is both [illegible] happy [illegible]
[illegible]. I [illegible] look [illegible] for a day
last week after [illegible] [illegible]
Thousands and nothing but [illegible]
in search of [illegible] beetles.

My experience [illegible] one
is about a [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] as late as April 3rd
[illegible] until May [illegible]. [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] different [illegible]
in the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Have you noticed many [illegible] on the [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] and the Country from Coast [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Yours very truly
[illegible] Brown

Brown, R. C.
March 23 1878

Coosada, Elmore Co., Alabama
April 2[illegible], 1878

Dear Mr Brewster—
Your letter of the 5th inst. reached me on the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and I at once [illegible] perfectly [illegible] with the [illegible]. My [illegible] now numbers 650. Here is a catalogue of the more important ones:

1 [illegible] [illegible]
2 Helinaia swainsoni
12 [illegible] [illegible]
20 ([illegible]) [illegible] [illegible]
30 " [illegible] [illegible]
4 Dendroica dominica
5 [illegible] [illegible]

Each [illegible] has only just [illegible] [illegible] appears to be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Robins try to get across before I leave.
Have been collecting rather extensively in breeding. Have shown nests of little Parula from time to time but found none [illegible]. Have taken no other nests except one each of [illegible] and [illegible].

One of my reasons for choosing Alabama for a collecting ground was, of course, that I might contribute something to ornithology. I want to ask your advice about writing up my results, whether I had better make a catalogue of species observed here or only select points of especial interest for publication. I think a complete catalogue, with very brief annotations except in the case of very rare birds, would be of value because that the avi-fauna here has been almost entirely un-

visited by collectors hitherto. Such
a catalogue might be published
in the Bulletin — if, indeed, the
editors would care to have it,
because of course I should
have it thus understood) not a
complete list, but might per-
haps make it full enough to in-
dicate the character of the fauna
of Colorado, and then be of ser-
vice. I say 'Colorado' instead of
[illegible], because Colorado is
a peculiar bit of country, inter-
mediate between the prairie-lands
of Nebraska, &c, and the hills
of [illegible]. I have no doubt
either of these last localities would
show quite a different series of
birds.

I shall follow your advice,
whatever it may be, but I have
lately commenced [illegible]

N. C. Brown
Apr. 22-1878

publications which had they
been anticipated in manuscript
to the extent of a thorough
ornithologist would not have
been better, but would never
have been.

Would your being stationed
at Mt. Carmel, in Ridgway's
company with doubtless contribute
[illegible] which by your engagement
[illegible] your business. They were
[illegible] Providence, is at least better

As to staying here through
May, I think it might be done
but the place is rather unhealthy
in hot weather, and I shall have
to turn my face homeward in a couple
of weeks at farthest.

Yours truly
Nathan Clifford Brown

[illegible]

Portland, Maine, May 20. 1878.

My dear Mr Brewster:—

Your letter of May 5th reached me a day or two after my return from Coosada. I am glad you met with such admirable success at Mt. Carmel, and since the large number of specimens you obtained indicates no little activity in tramping, I trust I may congratulate you on an improved physical condition.

My own improvement is more marked since my return, for I find myself easily overstepping, ~~&~~ in my pedestrian excursions, boundaries which for a couple of years have been impassable on the most favorable occasions.

I have offered my entire duplicate collection to the wholesale dealers, and, until I hear from them, I cannot say whether or not I shall have specimens to exchange. Before I make any disposition of the skins, I am anxious that you should see them, and at the same time my entire collection. Amongst my Alabama specimens are two specimens of _Parula_ which differ from all my Maine examples in their white lores. It may be that this is commonly seen in larger series than my own, but it appears interesting to me in view of Dr Coues' new _nigrilora_.

I have seen passing notices in the papers of a species or variety of _Aegialites_ _melodus_ which Mr Ridgway has named _circumcinctus_. If the continuous band of black is the only characteristic of the new form, I don't believe in its validity. I want you to see my series of the bird, depleted though it is by sale and exchange. I have also some young warblers, etc. which I think will interest you. Can't you make me a call? If you may come after June 1st, I shall, (I hope) have gotten over my present *drive* of work, and be better prepared to receive you. I cannot, however, much as I should like to, visit you, even for a day.

I lately rec'd a letter from Dr Brewer, apologizing for his misquotation of my note on *Am.* *caudacutus*.

Heartily yours
Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown. H. C.
May 1878

Portland, Maine.
June 17, 1878.

My dear Will:—

Your letter of the 11th was duly received.

I am very glad that your visit to Portland was a pleasant one; it certainly was the cause of a great deal of pleasure to me.

I looked up the case of *Hel. pinus* versus *H. "pini"* and discovered what I always knew but had forgotten at the time of your visit, i.e., that "*pinus*" is not an adjective but a noun of the 4th declension, making the genitive singular by a simple lengthening of the ultimate's vowel. Literally, then, taken in connection with *Helminthophaga*, *pinus* does not signify "pine warbler", but "warbler of a pine". The name Hirundo horreorum, you remember, is analogous to this, except that the genitive is used in the plural, the translation being, "swallow of barns".

I saw Jo Bond, this morning, on the subject of that specimen of C. lecontei. He expresses himself willing to exchange it, provided you can give him something pretty and bright-colored. Do you still wish to make the exchange?

I have been devoting several hours, each day, to my Alabama list, but have only filled about six pages of theme-paper. It is slower work than I anticipated, and I am bothered more by my desire not to repeat any well-known facts than by lack of material.

John Snider does not wish

to make an offer for my duplicates. On my notifying Brewster & Knowlton that I could not accept their offer, they at once wrote for my lowest price on the lot, and I set it, as you advised, at $150.00. They have not yet replied. Which, did you tell me, is the defunct partner of this firm? I see no objection to dividing the collection, as you propose, providing that I cannot "lump" it. I fear me, however, that it will not be much more easily disposed of in that way than in toto. The assistance you have rendered me in this affair is certainly very kind.

Stephenson requests me to convey to you his regrets that he could not have seen you at his house, while you were here. I suspect that I ought to have told you of his two extremely pretty sisters:

it might have influenced you where other considerations failed.

Apropos of our talks on the familiar use of scientific names, isn't the enclosed clipping too rich to be lost? — I remain

Heartily yours
Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown N. C.
Jan 17. [illegible]

Portland, Maine.
July 7' 1878.

My dear Will:—

Your letters of June 26th and July 3rd duly recd.

I am heartily obliged to you for your assistance in relation to the sale of my duplicates. I have decided to have some lists printed, affixing prices 40% lower than dealers' rates, if I fail to get a satisfactory offer from Knowlton, so pray don't put yourself to further trouble on the subject.

I send you herewith the squab night-hawk and Jo's specimen of *C. lecontei*. Both *Hel. pinus* and *D. caerulea* would be acceptable additions to Jo's cabinet. I think he is particularly anxious, however, to own a specimen of *P. æstiva*, if you have one to spare.

I have been out once or twice lately, but without getting anything to repay me for the hardship of braving the scorching sun. The weather is very hot, and I employ myself principally with in-door work, in consequence. The Catalogue progresses slowly, but steadily: I have got along as far as "28. *Dendrœca discolor*." How long before it will be necessary for me to send on my MSS? — or may I send on enough for one instalment, when the Bulletin is ready for the printer?

Did I tell you of the pleasant call I had from Deane and Mr Purdie? They dropped in upon me not long after your brief visit, and gave me a most enjoyable day. I was rejoiced to see Mr Purdie again. You know we had not met since the evening we spent at Mr Ingersoll's house, five years ago. I had entirely forgotten his face, and should not have recognized him without Deane's introduction. In the evening, however, he got sufficiently warmed up, after his day ~~with~~ amongst the birds, to favor us with the characteristic cries and movements of the night-hawk, bird of freedom, etc., so that I needed no further assurances of his identity. What a dear old fellow he is!

I ought to tell you (for they won't) that Everett Smith stuck both these gentlemen on his specimen of M. pugnax. You may believe that the incident rather tickled him, for I told you what he thought of the N. O. C.

I notice that your letter of 26th June was dated at 140 Brattle St. Does this mean that you have removed from the "paternal roof"?

As ever

Heartily yours

Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown N. C.

July 7-1878

Portland, Maine.
July 22. 1878.

Dear Will:—

Yours of July 10th is still unanswered. I informed him [illegible] [illegible] with the skins but he has not yet called for them, and I am afraid his enthusiasm for science is fast disappearing.

I am rejoiced at the chance to fill out some of the gaps in my ~~pamph~~ series of pamphlets. Of those which you mention the following are new to me:—

Hayden's Report &c '71, '72, '73.
Bendire's Birds of Oregon.
[illegible] Notes on "[illegible] Tour."
Copies of "Oologist."

If you will forward these to me I will remit postage and the price you may bit upon them.

Hamilton and I could not make a satisfactory agreement; hence the enclosed list. I think the prices are low enough to tempt the most impecunious collector.

I shall make a flying business visit to Boston this week or next, but shall not have time to call upon you much as I should like to.

You don't know how sorry I am to hear of your relapse in deafness. I sincerely hope it will prove only temporary. Very happily, I am gradually improving myself.

Please bring L. C. the Cove, but little work are more neatly and quickly if divided as usual.

Heartily yours
Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown, N. C.
[illegible]

The Ocean Cape Elizabeth, Me.
Sunday 6th Aug.

Dear Will:—

Your letter duly rec'd. You will believe me, I am sure, when I tell you that it troubles me not a little to reject any proposition coming from you. Still, really, I cannot consent to accept the exchange which you propose. You see I arranged the pieces in my lot specifically so as to enable me to retain some if the entire lot should be disposed of, and I cannot discern how we can arrange, without coming out short. My object wasn't exactly selfish either, for I mean to turn the proceeds of the coins over to my father

Three of the eight species, for which you propose to pay cash I cannot furnish you. Of the ~~six~~ remaining, i.e. Ae. [illegible]

Sitta carolinensis

Thry. ludovicianus

Cat. bicknelli,

Peucaea aestivalis,

Spizella pusilla et

Tringa alpina,

I can send a representation of at least one each. The choice, however, of one or two specimens will not be so great as I might have sent you at an earlier day.

I half suspect after all this you do not really wish to buy these skins but are arranging your prices in a spirit of reciprocation, — with the desire of assisting me. Therefore I enclose you a postal-card upon which I would you to write frankly and dispassionately whether you will use me to furnish the books or not. Then we will lay aside business indefinitely.

Did I write you how busy I have been since leaving the [illegible] Helena Hotel. Actually since we came to the Coast I have had to go in town every day and while [illegible] until night indeed I have more than once been forced to spend the night in our [illegible] city domicile. But of course it has taken a good deal of work to purchase a little cash. My orders call for about $70.00 worth of [illegible]. As I wrote [illegible] it has given me much pleasure to note the satisfaction with which the books have been received by purchasers.

My whole time is necessarily now taken by the duties of [illegible] [illegible]. It is best to have begun [illegible] in earnest before this but it might not be. All things being equal I shall go to [illegible] some time this week.

Have you done anything at the Club about Ernest Smith?

Visit to the city as usual.

Heartily yours
Nathan Clifford Brown

P.S. I forgot to say that the lot arrived safely. I was very glad to get them.

N.C.B.

Brown N. C.
Aug. 4. 1873.

Portland, Maine.
Aug. 14. 1878.

Dear Will:-

Very busy; time only for a line.

Saw two varieties of heron in Alabama, just before departure. No specimens. One white; one sort of bluish-greenish with chestnut about head and neck. Shall refer to them doubtfully, of course, but were they not probably *G. candidissima* *et* *F. caerulea*? What do you think?

Most hurriedly
N.C.B.

Brown, W. C

Aug 16th/78

Office of J. B. Brown & Sons, Bankers.

Portland, Me. Aug 20. 1878

Dear Will:—

Yours of the 15th just recd. Your letter of the 13th also came duly to hand. Thanks for your advice on the herons. Of course I am very glad you appreciated my position in regard to the proposed exchange so nicely. I send you by mail, today, the skins you ordered.

Very, very busy. Recently had sent in for mounting a ♂ juv. *Hydrochelidon plumbea*, the first I ever saw in this neighborhood. Although I haven't had time to look up its record, this must be very nearly its first noted occurrence in Maine. Have not smelled the marshes, this summer. Hope to shoot a little, next week.

Heartily yours,

Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown N. C.
Aug. 20. 1878

Portland, Maine. Sept. 2. 1878.

My dear Will:—

I was very sorry to hear from Mrs Brewster, on Saturday, that you have been so ill. I am glad, however, that you are convalescing, and trust you may soon be about again. — My brother takes his vacation, this week, and I am working at the office as his substitute. The weather is lovely, and the fact that I shot my first Op. agilis on Friday last, makes me chafe a little at the office hum-drum. I shall feel all the more ardor for the woods, next Monday. You know I never have collected near Portland in Autumn, except on the beach and marshes, so, it may be, I shall make some good captures, this season. I think my know are still a little better; ~~which is~~ another great assistant. — I sent my list to Mr Allen, last week, in response to a request from Deane. I intended to have submitted it to you, before finally parting with it, but my time ran short and I was forced to forward it to Mr A. at once.

Hurriedly yours

Nathan Clifford Brown

Brown, N.C.

Sept. 2, 1878

Portland, Me.
Nov. 14. 1878.

My dear Will:—

Your letter of Oct. 28th was gladly received and should have been acknowledged before.

Let me congratulate you upon having become at last settled in your new home; and not only because you have reached the end of the worry incident to establishing a home, but because, judging from the glowing and (I fear me) somewhat envious descriptions of Deane, you must have become settled most comfortably and happily.

Perhaps it is just as well that you did not, from whatever cause, propose Everett Smith's name at your club. I am awfully mortified at the way in which he responded to the notification of his election. But, you know, I told you of his peculiar character (altho' I anticipated no manifestations of this kind) and you agreed with me that we might wink at that a little, if Smithology could be advanced by his admission to your club. I was quite mad, this morning, and wrote Deane a warm letter which I hope he will show about freely.

You speak very kindly of my Alabama List. Yes, it certainly is pleasant to have one's productions liked, if not always appreciated.

Have you heard of my avocet? One was sent me for preservation, not long ago, by the P. Soc. Nat. Hist., and, if they will give me the note, I shall send it to the Bulletin. Redpolls, pine=grosbeaks and crossbills are with us. I believe their united presence is supposed to indicate a good year for Winter rarities; but I find little time for field investigations.

Shall you go away this Winter? God willing, I shall not. The bare thought of experiencing another season=full of southern benightedness makes me strong to withstand our own bleak weather. And thus far I have withstood it very satisfactorily indeed. I can walk so much better than at this time last year that I don't have to make so many demands as then upon my small stock of philosophy. You do not write of your own lameness; from which I infer that it intrudes less upon your thoughts and is, therefore, better.

Heartily yours
Nathan Clifford Brown

N. C. Brown
Nov. 14/1878

Portland, Maine.
Dec. 10. 1878.

Dear Will:—

The advent of cold weather has brought quail into our markets, and by purchasing specimens therefrom I have added to my collection the first specimens of the bird it contains, except my two Alabama skins. These latter now appear very diminutive and, it may be, ought to have been noted in my *List* under one of the varieties. I understood you to say that you had examples of both var. *Texanus* & *Floridanus*. Will you not compare the specimens sent herewith with these varieties, and, if my simple "*Ortyx virginianus*" needs to be supplemented, make the addition (by post-script, if necessary), crediting yourself, of course? I am sorry that I have only two Alabama skins; — of these one made by "Js."

Shall you go away, this winter?

Nothing new.

Heartily yours
Nathan Clifford Brown

N. C. Brown
Dec. 10, 1878

Portland, Me.
Dec. 28. 1878.

Dear Will:—

Your letter of the 15th, in prompt reply to my enquiry about the quail, was duly rec'd, and the birds shortly afterwards. My thanks for your supplementary note to the list.

I am doing almost nothing in the ornithological line;—quite nothing in the way of original investigation. I sit down to cull over my notes occasionally, with the intention of arranging an article on Maine for some future number of the Bulletin; and from time to time, a deceased canary or a prize-bird from some sportsman's game-bag calls me to my "shop" for an hour or two. But

I confess I am really just now absorbed in other things than *in rebus avium*. Not that I am losing or have lost any of my enthusiasm for my favorites of so much of my life, but the cold keeps me so much in the house that it is quite impossible to pursue an ornithological routine.

The open winter, however, furnishes an unusual number of birds. All the real winter species appear common, except *Chrys. pinus*. I see, once in a while, about the house *Sitta carolinensis*, — a couple yesterday; and in passing the swamp, in my daily walks to the office, I often catch an indistinct glimpse of a sparrow-like form and hear the familiar *chip* which pretty surely means *Me. melodia*. Both these last species are much less to be expected here at this season than even the probables.

My doctor won't let me write much, else I should lay lots of foundations for future improvement and elaboration in the literary line,—to make use of your phraseology a second time. The consequence is, as you doubtless have expected me to say, that most of my attention is devoted to music. I practise about three hours a day, and kill almost as much time in talking with kindred spirits equally enthusiastic. The orchestra now numbers seven pieces and really performs quite creditably. Instrumentat.: violin, two flutes, clarinet, cornet, piano and utility-man. We hope to get all the parts consta ally, and to practise it to excellence. All of which is, of course, very dry to the exclusively scientific gentleman who reads it.

Mr Purdie sent me Coues's recent letters. I thought I knew Mr C. pretty well, but I got some new points from these epistles.

Happy New Year!

Yours truly
Nathan Clifford Brown

N. C. Brown
Dec. 28 1874

Portland, Me.
Jan. 8. 1874.

Dear Will:—

Your letter of the 6th is just recd. I reply immediately, as you requested, enclosing samples of my labels. I have used similar ones for my entire collection: the only variation being in those of the first year, which were printed with my initials only, instead of with my full name. I retain my preference for the stiff card-board, because

It doesn't tear out at the hole punctured for the thread as the thin labels are apt to do; nor does it crumple, crease & frayat the edges. And if tied with a small loop, instead of tight to the specimen's feet, it lies along the tail nicely and adds strength to the feathers when you handle the skin.

It seems to me a very swell idea to have every item printed on the labels of the type collection, but perhaps this would prove impracticable, — certainly would call for a good deal of hard work on the collector's part.

So much for my ideas, and I, of course, feel highly honored at your application for them.

Is there any place where I can obtain copies of the various lists regarding Maine birds? This is a despairing question: I have tried a dozen places in vain. The Naturalists' Agency not only cannot furnish any

but cannot obtain them any
where at second hand.

Yes, Dr. Coues has very
kindly sent me a copy of the
B.C.V. and I am much pleas-
ed with it.

Yrs hastily
Nathan C. Brown

J. C. Brown

Jan. 8, 1879

Portland, Maine.
Feb. 5. 1879.

Dear Will:—

Your dictated letter of the 12th ult. was duly received. I am very sorry to know that your eyes are weak again, but have you not been tempting providence a little, in your steady application to pen and ink? You write so regularly for the Bulletin that, with your correspondence which I know to be large, your time must be largely occupied in pen-work. And as to your productions being "poor trash", I shan't admit it for a moment. I enjoyed the Fern paper very much indeed. I regard it one of your best litcrazy articles, — much better, to be honest, than that on the Prothonotary warbler. — Do you remember one of your earliest essays, on the Mourning warbler, published in one of the sporting weeklies? I don't think you have ever surpassed it in the indescribable something which vividly conveys to one's mind the charms of out-of-door scenes. I wish it might find a more suitable resting place in literature by being reprinted in the Bulletin.

I am also sorry to learn that the beetles have got into your collection, for, aside from the sympathy I feel for your bad luck, this seems to be bad news, as evidence against the protective powers of the corrosive sublimate solution. Won't you give me the particulars of the disaster? If ~~you~~ the solution is really no protection, I shall save myself the bother of using it so carefully.

I succeeded in getting one of Prof. Hamlin's Lists; have secured no others yet. Your offer of the loan of your own copies is characteristically kind, but of course I cannot accept it. In case I fail to obtain the other pamphlets I may ask you to give me the N.E. or Maine record of one or two species, — which I shall expect you to refuse to do, if it would cause you inconvenience.

Yours heartily
Nathan Clifford Brown

N. C. Brown

Feb 5, 1879

Portland Me.
March 4. 1877.

Dear Will —

The quiet of your premises extends by the rights [illegible] animals so that I have allowed almost a month to slip away before replying to your last letter. — I am very glad that the corrosive sublimate will not have to be discarded as inefficient, for I have always regarded it a powerful ally. Is there any other insect beside the anthrenus that eats the horny covering of bills and feet? I ask because I never detected a beetle or the remains of one in my cabinets; and yet before I tried the solution C 2. I used, once in a while, to find specimens disfigured by the attacks of small larvae (?) which apparently gave up the ghost after effecting small injury. I never found but one or tus of these little worms — they were about a quarter of an inch long — alive, but generally discovered their dead remains lying in a little pile of dust, near the bird they had mutilated. And I never had a bird's plumage attacked; so I am inclined to think that the *anthrenae* must not be regarded as the authors of the little mischief that has been wrought amongst my specimens.

Did you receive a Portland *Press* containing my review of Dr. C's B. C. V.? I sent you one, hoping for your opinion of it, in return.

The only addition to my cabinet, lately obtained, is the *Nyctale* *acadica* from the "Cape." I sent some very brief notes to Coues, a few days ago, all of which were probably old to you. I was invited, yesterday, to play in an orchestra composed of the best amateurs of Portland, and spent a most enjoyable evening with them. They are all far in advance of me, but I shall try to work up to their degree of accomplishment. It is a splendid thing to get 'in' with such a club.

You are doubtless enjoying the same beautiful weather that is prevailing here. I begin to hope for an early and pleasant Spring. There are no bird arrivals yet, however.

I must not forget to tell you that the extras are most acceptable to me. It is especially a convenience to have the "First Plumages" in connected form.

Yrs heartily

Nathan Clifford Brown

A. G. Brown

Feb. 4, 1877.

Glen Cove.
July 28. '93

Dear Will:—

How are you. I heard of you from Grace about the time you went to Germany, but have had no tidings since. I have been through the usual ups and downs which befall a professional novelist in the course of two or three months, and am just getting to expect nothing better than their monotonous repetition. What do you think of '93 the fighting eight? I like the stroke at least figures, tho' I feel decidedly worried.

My correspondence has gone all to wrack, of course, as well as other writing. I manage only to keep my notes fairly in order.

The Am. [illegible] breeds here, after all, as you probably thought before. But how commonly it nests I cannot at present say.

Shot my first (of the season) [illegible], three days ago. It antedates the [illegible] [illegible]

I have done really nothing ornithologically since Early Spring. Whether or not I shall resume work in the Autumn, is uncertain. It is so hard for me to get about that there is small chance for satisfactory results here. I rather think I shall make an extended trip, in the Winter.

I drop you this line more to call out one of your fringed letters than because I feel newsy. Jesse's last accounts of your lameness were discouraging. I hope with all my heart that you have grown better since then.

Do you read fiction, at all? I wish you would tell me your favorite [illegible] authors, if you do.

I read, as some magazine editor recently expressed it, "in selections" only. It is so aggravating to make this a bulky volume only to know that you never would have begun it, had you known what a mass of books it was.

Sincerely,
Nathan C. Brown

N. C. Brown.
July 28 1879

Hotel

October 22. '91.

Dear Will:

Your letter rec'd. I have selected twenty-one volumes for you, and will probably send them tomorrow or next day.

I am not at all well or I should have written you more regularly. I suppose you heard of my going to [illegible]. It may be accomplished, if nothing interrupts the present course of events. I should prefer to stay at home, if I could do so without collapsing. I want to have a talk with you before I de-

ide where I was, in case my fa-
ther thinks best for me to go
away. Several friends have given
most glowing accounts of the
climate of Southern California
and urged me to go there.

I have made about 70
skins since Sept. 1. among
them four P. princeps. If you
would like to obtain one by
ex., I can let you have also.

Hope to write you more
fully before long; meanwhile
believe me always

Heartily yours

~~Nathan~~ Clifford Brown

A. E. [illegible]

Oct. 23, 1879

Pekin, Mich.
Nov. 19. 1879.

Dear Sir:

I received and perused, today, your kind & interesting letter of Oct. 28th.

The Doctors have given me my passport to the South, with orders to start within a week or ten days. I intend to go to Texas or Miss., and my father seems to have quite made up his mind upon San Antonio.

Can you advise me about a location? Can I do well at or within 100 miles of S. Ant.? Healthability and scientific value of a home to be considered. I want to work for science as well as for my profit. Or even any place you may think desirable.

Can I hope at all for your company? I should be immensely delighted to go with you.

Please excuse my haste & necessary brevity, & send me as speedy a reply as soon as may be.

Heartily yours
Peter A. [illegible]

N. C. Brown

Nov. 19, 1879

Libr [illegible] (42)

Boerne, Kendall Co. Tex.
2-5-80

Dear Will:

Your letter of Nov 21 reached a few days before I left home. I have been very sick since its receipt & am yet unable to write you fully. I heard of your son Thomas had unfortunate accident with much sorrow, & am glad to learn from Doane that you are on the mending hand. I have made some 330 skins here representing numbers, but few species: the fauna resident during winter being very limited. Sp. pusilla. Ct. ludovicianus. [illegible] [illegible] & Pipilo arcticus are about the only rare things taken, except some Eastern stragglers of [illegible] & you will hear later.

N. E. Brown

Feb. 5, 1880

This place is about thirty miles north of [illegible] amongst the mountains. I have not entirely made up my mind to remain here through the summer, & want to depend upon my cattle.

Wishing you much success & profit arising from your contemplated trip. I am as always

Yrs. truly

Nathan C. Brown

Boone, Feb. 23. /80.

Dear Will:

Your letter of the 10th inst. is rec'd. & arouses my interest in the duly reported investigation. It was pleasant to me that you hope I shall but contribute to the movement of your resolutions of conclusions by giving you a full list of everything I have to show thus far, & you may be sure your other comments & suggestions will be always eagerly looked for.

[illegible] ([illegible])

2) Imagination ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible]

follow

1) [illegible]

2) [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] (?)

[illegible]

[illegible] ([illegible])? [illegible]

[illegible] { one or both

[illegible] } [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

* [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ([illegible])?

* [illegible]

* [illegible]

? [illegible]

? [illegible] ([illegible])?

* [illegible]

[illegible] ([illegible])?

[illegible]

? [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] (var.)

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ([illegible])

[illegible]

[illegible] (var.)

[illegible] P.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ([illegible])

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]. [illegible]
" [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] " [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
" [illegible]. [illegible]
" [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
" [illegible] [illegible]
" [illegible]. [illegible]
" [illegible] [illegible]

6 p. ct.

" [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].
" [illegible] of
" [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]. [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] I [illegible] I will ask my
[illegible] that I am entitled to
propose on the collection to charge
a low & reasonable rate of duties
Do you not think this will be [illegible]

enough, considering the quality of my edition? I shall have to ask your opinion, later in the summer, as to pursuing an affair which I sometimes have entertained.
What ought a collection of six or seven hundred Poems bring to a average for first thought?
I must not omit to tell you that I consider your paper on "Philadelphia" very bright and the closing words [illegible]. I may take it as one of your finest bits, or [illegible] the effects.
[illegible] ought to write more like that. Sincerely and
Yours truly
Edith C. Thomas

L. C. Brown

Feb. 25/1880

Portland, Me.
April 26. 1880

Dear Will:—

I got your letter of March 6 at [illegible] more than a month ago.

I [illegible] that it did not [illegible] to you that my "[illegible] bicolor" was a [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]?

[illegible] [illegible] my first [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] the [illegible] that some of them [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] your [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] hope you to identify [illegible] for me.

[illegible] without more specimens. Is the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] or not?

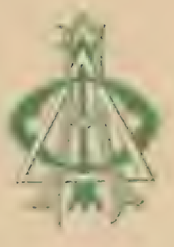
[illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

A. E. Brown
April 20 1880.

pointed in the work of getting from
the descriptions [illegible] dif-
ference from the [illegible] Bermuda list
ed. The Catalogue may be almost
complete. I have looked, yet not ex-
haustively at the material.

I will send you a list of the
[illegible] in a day or two. It is a de-
cidedly less valuable lot than I had
expected to have missed, on account of
my abrupt departure from Bermuda.
My numbers, however, is probably all
that I ever really [illegible] to have be-
fore I had used the amount of
money I had laid out for myself.
This amounts to about 750 in aggregate.

Yours truly
J. Matthew Jones



[illegible] ted upto. [illegible]

[illegible] ed, that the

specimen upon being [illegible] fam.

[illegible]

taking to an examination there

[illegible]

so far as [illegible]

[illegible]

settlement & [illegible] the

[illegible]

× setting up the institution of

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Yours truly

William C. [illegible]

A. C. [illegible]

Aug. 1885

Baltimore
Oct 1 2

Dear Sir:

Yours rec'd. The collection is not yet sold. It numbers over 1500 species, and between 700 & 800 specimens. These were nearly all named — intentionally so; a third of them with fine examples, [illegible] with names, or labels.

It embraces all the best things & the best specimens I have collected. It particularly full in all the smaller species found in the localities I have visited. Quite complete in the commoner kinds. The reason for offering it is a speculation not made by myself.

[illegible] have [illegible]
[illegible] particularly [illegible]

N. C. Brown
1881.
His Coll. of bird skins

Portland, Maine.
Nov. 8. 1882.

Dear Will:-

I received your letter yesterday. The [illegible] has not yet turned up but will probably come to hand tomorrow. I thank you sincerely for your attention to the paper and your ever-watchfulness in behalf my bird.

I have been to Boston but rarely since I called at your house, last winter, and not once since that time for a stay of more than four or six hours. The fact is I have done a great deal of work lately and there have been very few moments that I could devote to pleasure, aside from the pleasure derived from the work itself. You have seen in the papers I have sent you some of the results attained. There are others to be seen in the shape of bird-skins, and others still entirely without ornithological boundaries.

The Florida trip is by no means decided upon. The probabilities indicate, perhaps, that I shall stay at home this winter. If I ever reach my old quarters at Brownsville again, I shall not forget your explicit instructions, - though I have taken upon myself a solemn vow never to sell another bird-skin.

Trusting with some confidence, [illegible] munications on the Cranial matter. If there be no error in my observations — and this seems impossible — a good many species and races may be expected to come to grief hereafter. I want this paper for revision and wish it forwarded to me as soon as you have presented it to the Club.

I meant to have said that Jeffries has some of my crania of Loxia leucoptera, so that he is in a position to express an opinion of the comparative age of the specimens from which they were removed.

Sincerely yours
Nathan Clifford Brown

N. C. Brown
Dec. 17, 1882

A. C. Brown

Dec. 20, 1882

Pictou
Dec. 20. 1882.

Dear Will:—

I return the proof herewith. I see nothing of the footnote added to a form; also none of one or two minor corrections. Will you not have them inserted in the article before it finally goes to press?

With respect to the "[illegible]" passage. I agree with you that the expression as it now stands is preferable. I almost invariably use that style myself. But your marginal note implies, by the use of the word "must", that the original reading was incorrect. This I am not prepared to admit, in spite of the high authority you quote. Countless instances may be cited, from all the classical writers of Rome, to show that my oldpression is quite defensible. The specific names in scientific nomenclature are more like appositive nouns than simple adjectives. For instance you probably often use such a mongrel expression as "the Junco *oreganus* and *hyemalis*" or "the Loxia *americana* and *leucoptera*." You may put this into modern Latin and with perfect propriety say "*Loxiae americana et leucoptera*" just as the Romans said "*Gnaeus et Publius Scipiones*."

Yours very truly

N. C. Brown

Dec. 28, 1882

Portland, Maine
Dec. 28. 1882.

My dear Will:-

In today's Forest and Stream begins Mr. Smith's List of Maine Birds. I hope you will take pains to read it as it appears from week to week, and notice it properly in the Bulletin.

I feel myself in a peculiar position with regard to this paper. I see many things in it which I know give wrong impressions and some things which are not at all to be reconciled with fact. As a student of the ornithology of Maine, I am unwilling to permit erroneous statements to go unchallenged and yet my relations with Mr. Smith are such that if I undertake criticism of the gentlest kind, through the medium of print, I am sure to produce something more than contrary. The fact is, I read the manuscript of most of his papers, and induced him to eliminate a good deal that I considered objectionable. Still, he is a man of such positive disposition, that some of the most unsubstantiable statements of the whole he refused to retract. Look, for example, at the first short instalment of the List. The first species noticed is the Wood Thrush, which is included on the strength of a specimen said to have been shot by the author in 1865. In 1865 Mr. Smith was a boy *aetate* only about 15 years; the specimen *was never preserved*; and a thing which renders it impossible for me to attach the slightest credence to his record in this case. I am aware that one year ago, he was unfamiliar with the specific characters of the Thrushes and many other common birds. In fact his knowledge of *most* of our State of Maine birds is a smatter of very recent date.

I am also of the opinion that Mr. Smith has done injustice in not making full acknowledgment of the assistance derived from other observers, which was very great. Harry Merrill, A. H. Eley, [illegible] and others placed all of our notes at his disposal. Nevertheless important facts relative to migration and, in some instances, technical matter, are given as original whether really so or not.

Notice, too, the very scanty reference to published tables of other observers, errors in time of arrival of species, etc.

It is decidedly exasperating to a fellow of my mathematically exact system to see things of this sort in print. I have done my best however, and, at least, congratulate myself that I have kept from the public some statements which would have created quite a breeze in scientific circles.

After having unburdened my heart to you, I want to request you to say nothing of the present epistle. You will hardly understand how I feel in the matter until you meet Ernest Smith. He is a very curious combination; a man, to characterize him briefly, who would be an exceptionally fine fellow were he not so hopelessly obstinate.

I wish you a Happy New Year, and an undiminished success in ornithology.

Yours sincerely
Nathan C. Brown

P.S. Don't you write a thoroughly systematic list of Maine birds, up to the style of A.O.U.'s admirable [illegible] relating to [illegible]!

N. C. Brown

March 11, 1883

Boerne, Texas
March 11. 1883.

Dear Will:-

Yours of March 4 received with pleasure less than usual only because it gives unfavorable news of your health. I sincerely believe you overwork systematically. When did you last take a real vacation?

My own health is very unsatisfactory. When a man can't do field-work, he is certainly badly off. This is precisely my own condition. I have only accumulated about one half as many skins as in the same length of time, on my previous visit. And, the worst of it is, it looks as if now, when I would like to put in my "best licks," my labors must even less systematic than hitherto.

The winter has been excessively cold. Mercury at 10°, 14°, 19°, and so on, many times too often. Vegetation is in better condition, however, than before; and birds are more numerous, on both accounts. I have already taken seven species not observed before. Are not some of interest? I haven't a single book with me. The birds are:—

Pyrrhuloxia sinuata, 1, (Feb.)
Zonotrichia albicollis, 1, (March)
*Picus pubescens**, 1, (Feb.)
Lanivireo solitarius, 1, (Feb.)
Nyctardea grisea, 1, (Feb.)
Sayornis sayus, 2, (Feb.)
Sialia mexicana, several, (Feb.)

No migrants along yet except *Plect. ornatus*.

I hope to stay until the very last of April.

* prob. *gairdneri*

Write me who will review Everett Smith. Please have my April Bulletin sent hither. I have to be brief, but am no less

truly yours,

Nathan C. Brown

Boerne, Texas
March 30. 1863.

My dear Will:-

Your letter of March 20 is before me. I will gladly give you any assistance possible with your review of Everett Smith's paper. I feel gratified at your request though I do not like to have any part in a criticism of the present list.

As to the records of Bay Birds. I think the scientific public ought to know that many - most - of the records Mr. S. quotes are not his own; they are taken from what is known as the "Shanty Journal", kept at the Black Rock House, Scarborough, for many years, by the celebrated sportsman, Cale Loring. You will notice that some of the dates in the paper are of a period when Mr. S. was a mere child. The notes are probably, as a rule, reliable, but it might affect their value, if the fact were known about them. By this I mean that most compilers like to know whom they are quoting. If I were you, I would write to the author and enquire about some of the remote dates; this would place you in a position to speak of the matter or not, as you choose.

I have taken nothing uncommon since I last wrote. In the egg line I have a set of the local Buteo borealis and another nest "spotted."

Hastily, yr friend
N. C. Brown

P.S. There is to be an addendum, to include omissions, to the Smith List. Do not overlook it.
C.

N. C. Brown

March 30, 1883

V. C. Brown.

Apr 2, 1883

Boerne, Texas
April 2. 1883.

Dear Bill:-

I suppose there is a letter from you en route to me with advice for disposition of my time for the remainder of the Spring. I have been forced to the conclusion however, that I should best give up work for the present and travel slowly homeward. Field work here is certainly impossible, owing to the very debilitating effect produced upon my body by Texas water. I suffered in the same way before, but hoped that an interval of three years might have made me less susceptible. I am more sorry than you can easily imagine to pull up stakes just now, when the choicest prizes are to be expected every day.

Take my advice and beware of the limestone districts of the south-west, if you possess the impressionable bowels of my make-up.

I have been at work here just two months, and shall take away about three hundred skins. The series are small and there are practically no duplicates, still I should be only too glad should you find the inspection of the lot a sufficient excuse to bring you to Portland.

Whether I reach New England in very unfavorable condition I shall do my best to arrange a call upon you.

Sincerely yours

Nathan C. Brown

Portland, Maine
July 3, 1853.

Dear Bill:-

Judging your views from the fragment inserted in your letter of the 1st inst. I can find nothing to criticise. I think you have written smoothly, finely and yet unpretendingly. I will however make two suggestions;

The [illegible] which [illegible] the [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it in the cabinet of Bowdoin College, and is a [illegible] [illegible] of this [illegible]. There is reason to doubt that it was ever [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], but the [illegible] mind attaches to it arose from a possible error of either location — was it not? — rather than from mistaken identification.

It seems to me that the word thrush ought — to become your own supposition to be more nearly hit upon. Mr. Smith was a mere boy when the supposed specimen was shot, and you can imagine how extensive his knowledge of land-birds was at that time. Besides the bird was never preserved. I feel perfectly sure myself that ~~the~~ it was no such thrush, & you would coincide with me could you talk with E. S. a few moments.

I believe I have a third suggestion, after all. The author records quite a number of rare species in his paper as

of his new orchids were the first published.
Thus Beaumontia, Rubus elegans and C.
cuspidatus, Ixora hypoleuca, Spatula, [illegible]
[illegible], Sitea [illegible] etc. Under this
head come in a little different way the
large number of names of [illegible] [illegible]
in the fifties (cf. Linnaea [illegible], notes in
'53, '57 etc). Mr Smith was badly
out of his [illegible] [illegible] in '52, and
the notes, or at least a large part of them
must rest on somebody else's authority.
But whence? Ought it not to have been stated?
Ought he not to have quoted the publishment
of each species as I mentioned above?

The letter will go tonight, if not
direct. Many thanks for your compliment in
consulting me. Sincerely yours, J. [illegible]

F. C. Brown
July 3/1883

See ye Smith's List of
Birds of Maine!

Portland, Maine
Aug. 13, 1883.

My dear Will:—

I received yesterday a circular signed by [illegible] and yourself inviting me to be present at the first meeting of the American [illegible] at [illegible].

I think the idea of such an association a capital one, and I should be glad to [illegible]. Shall we go together or have you other plans?

I wish you would write me something of the [illegible] of this proposed enterprise. Have you sent invitations to everybody or have you made some selection? I should

wise to say whether the [illegible] [illegible] with
general form it can hardly be otherwise, [illegible]
ever.

I have been hoping to receive a call
from you. I have some doubtful specimens
in my last collection which cannot be satis-
factorily fixed without comparison or without
the opinion of an expert, like yourself, who has
already made such comparison. When you
do come, I should be glad to have you bring
a specimen each of Persica bouvardi and
insignis.

Did you notice that [illegible] [illegible]
recently made me an A. B. C.? Not such a
very great honor; but I suppose they thought
the steps in the elevation of a thing ought to
be taken in order; possibly the A. B. C. will

come later. I felt gratified in receiving the degree because it showed that the college had kept me in mind and regarded my handicapped labors with favor.

I have kept an eye on Science with the object of discerning your review of [illegible]. It has not yet appeared, has it?

Yours truly,

Addison C. Brown

W. C. Brown

Aug 13, 1883

Portland Maine
Sept. 29 1863

My dear Will:—

Since your recent note, I hasten to return to you the amount of money you were kind enough to advance me, and wish to thank you again for your courtesy.

I have read Everett Smith's article on Lane Crompton with sorrow. I knew of course his opinion in the matter, but I did not suppose he would write with such bitterness. Both reference to the pathology of his mind concerning the affair, now marked I can only guess, never having use it. I shall want a letter from you with information.

[illegible] little time to spare just now for correspondence. Should you have a story connected [illegible] I should be glad to have something of the last days [illegible] of the [illegible].

Sincerely yours

Nathan Clifford Brown

N. C. Brown

Sept. 29, 1883

Portland, Maine
Nov. 9. 1883.

Dear Will:—

A good old-fashioned, gossipy letter, yours of the 6th. I wish I felt able to revive the correspondence that used to bring me such letters far oftener than I see them nowadays. If I tell you why I cannot, I shall be answering your question, "what have you been doing?"

As you surmise, I have done almost nothing in ornithology since returning from Texas, last spring. But I should have been almost equally idle in this department of study had our friend's law never found a place in the statute books. The fact is, I have

E. C. is only too true. — Remember
your [illegible] & people.
[illegible]
Sincerely yours
Nathan C. Brown

eagerly been waiting for a bodily improvement sufficient to enable me to add something to my general education, which — heaven knows — is far from satisfactory to me. That time seems to have come. At all events I can do a little work, every day, and this, I hope, will tell in time. I have been studying French more than anything else, but have done something in English literature and composition. I will send you, ere long, a *résumé* of my impressions of San Antonio, which is to appear in the *Transcript*; — hoping of course, to receive one of your always satisfactory criticisms upon it. 'Always satisfactory' they are to me, though this does not appear to be true in the case of 'Mr. Smith.' He is sincerely offended, in spite of the fact that I have assured him of the unprejudiced manner in which you wrote the (Bulletin) review.

I try to make the best possible use of the nervous energy at my disposal, and therefore devote very little time to correspondence which I consider simply a luxury.

You ask for my opinion of your second R.S. letter, in re Sci. I think it was well done, — a dignified and effectual piece of work. I should have liked it better if you had refused to admit even the trace of personal feeling that seems, and very naturally, to have influenced you to some extent. I should have omitted the last five words. It does not appear to me that your letters are too *severe*; I do not see how it

V. C. Brown

Nov. 9, 1883

could have been his so, without failing to answer the desired purpose.

The ci-devant acquaintance of mine, whom you met at the Lake, must have been A. R. Bradbury. He is a man of really brilliant mind and, twenty years ago, was set down as one of the most promising lawyers of New England. The bottle has ruined him, morally, physically and all but mentally. I knew him very slightly.

I got a pleasant letter from Chamberlain, a day or two ago. I count myself lucky in having made his acquaintance. It is seldom that I find a man that I like so well on short acquaintance. He seems to be "true blue".

Your explanatory P.S. referring to

V. C. Brown
Feb. 8, 1884

Portland, Maine
Feb. 8. 1884.

Dear Will:-

I have a few moments of leisure this morning and they shall be devoted to writing a hasty reply to your last kind letter.

Mr Alden warned me that my paper might get crowded out of the first Book. I was not surprised therefore at its non-appearance. I am really very sorry, however, that you should have troubled yourself on my account. You may be sure that I should never [illegible] you with lack of delicacy, whatever might happen to any of my contributions.

Like yourself, I deeply regret the [illegible] in the criticisms of the [illegible] Book. [illegible] not behind your opponents in the ordinary, as bad as he appears to you. He is a very singular man, but, unless I have made a grand error of diagnosis, he is sincere, — that, if nothing else.

What am I doing? Committee work for the Union, especially on the finance question; French under an instructor for the first time in ten years (how time has flown!); reading of a heavy kind, especially in the departments of metaphysics and cosmogony; original compositions; Society. A very little of each, only; but I thank Providence for the ability to do even so much.

When you wish to be sure of a sympathetic reader, send me a letter.

Sincerely yours
Nathan Clifford Brown

Portland, Maine.
March 16. 1884.

Dear Will:-

I feel that I violate no confidence in writing you that you will soon hear from Everett Smith again on the [illegible] question. He has recently had sent a very large part of the Smithsonian series forwarded for examination, and tells me that he has not obtained from another source an intermediate specimen that substantiates his identification beyond question. I have seen none of the birds about which this controversy has arisen; therefore I have no opinion based on personal knowledge. I hope you are right, but, lest there may have been a flaw in your reasoning, I send you this word that the end is not yet. Why not look over the evidence a second time?

Sincerely yours
Nathan Clifford Brown

H. C. Brown

Mch. 16, 1884

Portland, Maine

July 4. 1884.

Dear Sir, —

I am very glad to have a copy of your paper on the birds you observed during a [illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] which I have not seen before. It shows your usual thoroughness and is full of interesting notes, especially of course about the water birds. I think it the best little bit of descriptive writing you [illegible] in the way of the [illegible] [illegible].

Your words of approval on the [illegible] of "[illegible] [illegible]" gratified me very much. You are always perfectly so frank in expressing your views that a favorable opinion from you is something to be only printed. The other was an experiment in [illegible] the first attempt ever made. I hope to do more work of the same sort. How much I shall accomplish depends upon this puny body of mine. You may be sure, however, that I shall never forget the [illegible].

Sincerely yours

A. C. Brown
July 4, 1884

Portland, Maine.
Sept. 23. 1884.

Dear Will:-

I have come to realize, within the past three months, that my course of life since I got back from my last [illegible] trip has been off on a tangent from the ornithological circles and I sometimes doubt whether I ever can go back to birds with all the enthusiasm. Once in a while I feel a desire to brush off my collecting paraphernalia and take to the woods, but our present invalid has precluded any sort of field work in Maine, and I confess to an indisposition to pursue science beyond the state boundaries. So my studies and pleasures have been wholly out of the ornithological line. I haven't wasted my time, however; and just so many hours every day as my strength has warranted in thus employing I have devoted to literary work of some kind. Since I saw you at Cambridge, I have gone carefully through Walton's

N. C. Brown

Sept. 23, 1884

Ancient American Antiquities; Blaine's Twenty Years of Congress, a French book or two, and such papers in the magazines as interest me a bit; and I have written out, in nearly complete form, a couple of original articles. The last you shall see, of course, if they find their way into print.

I am pretty well. I spare you both the particulars of my physical condition, and complaints (which I could furnish abundantly) of my handicapped working powers. Nan: ditto, ditto — I try to keep up a stiff upper lip.

Now, how are you, and what have you been doing? I hear that [illegible] and Isabel are with you now, and that you have all three been in frequent consultation with other [illegible] but [illegible]. Is there anything of special importance coming? I hope you will find time to send me an extended letter: if not before the A. A. A. convention — where I cannot meet you — then afterwards. I am still much interested in anthropological progress, if I be not a worker; but most of all I want to hear from you personally.

It is possible that I may pass a part of next winter at the Cavendish for further practice in Physics. Should I do so, I shall look you up, provided you shall be in Cambridge.

Sincerely yours
Arthur C. Brown

Portland, Maine.
Feb. 28. 1885.

Dear Will:-

I trust you will excuse the telegrams which I sent, this morning, — [illegible] to [illegible] my [illegible] for my failure to keep the appointment at your house [illegible] [illegible] which I [illegible] for with the [illegible] of [illegible] my [illegible] so far as the [illegible] to [illegible] was [illegible] so late this afternoon that [illegible] for me to make the trip to your house [illegible] from me. If this [illegible] time, I shall [illegible] from my [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

my [illegible] a better comfort ([illegible]) to
a club composed of a few of my favorite
friends, have been a relief. The summer has
been a fine thing for my health and I have
never been so well as during this summer.
But the day before I went from the city
to the country, and then I couldn't use my hands
so badly that I could hardly write, and only
with difficulty. At night the pain was
severe: I could not sleep a single night; and
I absolutely decided to forgo the flying visit
to Cambridge. I have, however, written at
length to Cousins Ellen and [illegible], and if
none of you have been inconvenienced, no
~~harm~~ harm will have resulted from my staying
at home. At this very moment, too, after de-
[illegible] my letter to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

and I have received a letter from [illegible]
[illegible], in which he states that the [illegible] had
again emphatically affirmed his ability
to endorse anything done by the three mem-
bers of his committee without [illegible] of
[illegible]. Therefore after you [illegible]
that I [illegible] to say to you and have
written to [illegible] because of [illegible]
[illegible] the affairs of an [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] by
the [illegible]. I believe it to be of
[illegible] in [illegible] to [illegible] what we
[illegible] our family [illegible]. The [illegible]
[illegible] at [illegible] Mary, perhaps, [illegible]
with your [illegible] [illegible] days, but —
through the [illegible] of [illegible]. I
will [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

upon the latter draft, with its essential purpose of the nation, would be weak and insufficient to circulate as a campaign document; and that I should be unwilling to urge such a report, which is not prepared by myself, understanding that it was to be circulated. The part, or what purported to be the part of the document, might be printed in the [illegible], and the statement made that the complete whole was to be ready for publication. The whole might then be demanded of the chairman by the Council, for such future use as might be thought best, and the committee, as I would think, must appropriately without thanks be discharged.
What do you think about this?

I wish now to write a few

[illegible] 5

times in reply to your last letter, that of
January 17 which I was very glad to receive,
I assure you after the long [illegible] that had
occurred in our correspondence. I have no idea
of permitting you to slip outside of the circle
of my friends, though it is true that the
lines of our lives have diverged latterly.
I suppose that you have noticed a similar
condition, judging from the very [illegible]
way in which in the last letter you allude
to it to my [illegible] effects in all [illegible]. But
rather we are both [illegible] not changed
[illegible]. We both believe in [illegible] and
[illegible]. It is only that you give rather
more of your affection to the former, just
now, and I to the latter. Do not [illegible]
mean since that I am not [illegible]

and that I shall not stir out of these [illegible]
to my first love. But I confess that I am
very much interested, at present, in this
new literature. To name the authors whose
acquaintance I have been making for the
first time, after these long years in which
[illegible] has been to [illegible], and to describe
the great effect they have produced upon
me, would be, of course, to bore you: a
man in love is always a bore. You can
imagine, I think, that I feel very much as
if I ~~had~~ just been [illegible] into a new [illegible].
But I haven't forgotten Science.
I have been working very hard to secure the
passage by the present legislature of a law
permitting the taking of birds, nests and eggs
for scientific purposes. Science now appears

about to resume my efforts. There will be grave defects in the law, amongst them a limitation to ten of the number of collectors; but these I hope to remedy in the future. It may be considered a fairly glorious victory to get any like restriction through the present radical legislature.

Before bidding you farewell I want to thank you for your Christmas card, — and of many which I received, the prettiest.

Sincerely yours,
Walter C. Low

N. E. Brown

Feb. 28. 1885

[illegible]
[illegible]

Dear [illegible],

I feel a certain degree of [illegible] for the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of this [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to say that it applies to [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] not the fact ([illegible] [illegible] from your [illegible]) that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it before the public [illegible] that [illegible] [illegible] is [illegible]? [illegible] [illegible] it [illegible] [illegible] spoken of a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible]

who is [illegible] — if you will excuse
the [illegible] — because he may have
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],
that without [illegible] words of
such [illegible] as '[illegible]',
'[illegible] [illegible]' '[illegible] [illegible]'
not [illegible] — 'the [illegible] [illegible]'
[illegible] [illegible] '[illegible] [illegible], [illegible],
— especially when the last time of the
[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to
[illegible] between 'Book of Ballads'
and 'Book of Hymns'", '[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]' and '[illegible]',
and [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible].

I should like this to be a
list of '[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

assembled throughout the State.
The Professor's friends and many others
to whom "[illegible] Gray" and "the class"

Finally, I would rather [illegible]
on the whole, and point out its
doubtful character. Should you
not, it may fall into the hands of
some scholar in the coming
who may mistake it, or have had
[illegible] of the light in prospect.

Truly yours,

Nathan C. Brown

P.S. I don't know what became
of this article. When the body [illegible]
found its way into the old archives
of the [illegible] Society, which was then
destroyed in the fire of 1886.

N. C. Brown

July 9, 1885

H. C. [illegible]
Sept. 8. 1885

80 Vaughan St.,
Portland Me.
Sept 8. 1885.

Dear Sir:

I return herewith the Mitchell list & the letter of the same author. I also send the notes which you requested me to write.

I have no copy of [illegible], and I was obliged to ask [illegible] to look over my paper and see whether in quoting this [illegible] (from Coues) I had made no slips. He reports me all right; but he questions, with his usual kindness of heart, the [illegible] of making public a [illegible] list. I have written him that I would apprise you of his views on the subject, and that I should be willing to have you suppress my notes entirely, if you found it best to do so. However, [illegible] it may seem wise to permit the list to be omitted, with the [illegible] of [illegible]

[illegible] would render certain [illegible] at some future time.

I am going abroad partly for study, partly in the hope of completing my sketch. I propose to be absent a couple of years, but I hope earnestly that I may be able to see you before I start. November will probably find me on the sea. I have much upon my hands at present, and cannot write you at length; but you really owe me a letter.

Yours [illegible]

[illegible]

P.S. If you use the notice, and if it goes into the book-notice department of the [illegible], you will of course print nothing of my distinguished name but the initials.

[illegible]

Portland, Maine.

Oct. 7 1883.

Dear [illegible]

Unless [illegible] my [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] this evening, and [illegible] for the night I shall continue to hope that you will come. But I must [illegible] that you [illegible] a reply to your letter of yesterday, [illegible] the [illegible]. I am perfectly willing to have the [illegible] of [illegible] withheld from publication, after the [illegible] of the case which has been made by [illegible] and yourself. [illegible] to the work done by me, that I am glad to have accomplished it; it was good practice, and has added to my [illegible] stock of knowledge. I nevertheless still believe that the [illegible] is capable of working mischief, and I certainly would [illegible] it. — I shall send this [illegible] by a friend [illegible] to Boston, hoping thereby to reach you sooner than by the ordinary method.

Truly yours,

[illegible]

N. C. Brown

Oct. 7. 1885

Lucerne, Switzerland.
Oct. 14. 1887

Dear Will:

It is a long time,—far too long, I think,—since a letter has passed between us, and I suppose I may fairly blame you for the length of the interval, since I was the one to write last. But I only blame you theoretically, for I know you are busier than you have ever been before in your ornithological work, besides being harassed by business cares, and I know you find it absolutely necessary at all times to limit your correspondence, on account of our common enemy,—ill health. Now that I break the silence, I have little to tell you about myself and my fair wife. Tranquillity has been the ruling characteristic in my existence since that memorable date, June 83, when I ceased to be a bachelor.

[illegible]

nor is likely to have, because I was no longer young at the time I "fell in love", and because I knew my *fiancée* so much better than it is possible for most men to know their prospective wives, before I married her. I am happy as a benedict, quite as happy generally as a man may be who longs every day of his life to work actively, and is prevented from doing so by bodily frailty. I do work just so far as strength permits, and thereby avoid stagnation: I am afraid I cannot truthfully claim a more gratifying result.

But I did not sit down to write you anything but a business letter, and first and foremost, now that I come to the business, let me remind you that we have always been successful in keeping business in its proper place, so far as we are personally concerned — that is, apart from friendship. I hope you will not now make any infringement upon our custom.

I wish to raise money to pay off a debt incurred before my marriage. Since I am obliged as a married man to live closely up to my income (not to exceed it, I am glad to say) I cannot hope to free myself from the burden except by recourse to a forcing process. My first resource is offered in my birds. They number within a few dozen of one thousand specimens, and ~~contain~~ include my entire second Texas collection, besides all the Maine specimens I have got together since Scott bought my "types" for Princeton. In that lot there were only about eight hundred birds. The present collection is not alone larger; it is much more complete in the larger species represented. The workmanship is better in the present collection, also. For the birds purchased by Scott I received $500.00, but I would sell these I have now for $400.00, with the object of [illegible]

N. C. Brown Oct. 14-1887

sale. Do you wish to buy these birds, either for yourself or for the Bost. Soc.? If you wish to see them, before expressing such a desire or the reverse, you can do so by sending a line to my brother, Philip G. Brown, 218, Middle St., Portland; and he will extend you all necessary facilities, if you decide in favor of a purchase and wish to pack the specimens before my return, which is now fixed for April next. Let me here inform you of the hiding-place of my large birds! — a cabinet shut up in the closet of my mother's guest chamber!

My address is care Melville, Evans & Co., 75, Lombard St., London.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan C. Brown.

CAPE ✦ COTTAGE
B. C. GIBSON, Proprietor.

P. O. ADDRESS,
PORTLAND, ME.

Cape Elizabeth, Me., Aug. 22, 1889.

Dear Will:

It is a very long time since I heard from you. Where are you, what are you doing, and how are you physically? Do the birds retain their old hold upon you? I am much the same fellow that I was when I last wrote to you, except that I have grown so bald that I have a more intellectual appearance. This is not warranted by fact, for I have little to do with intellectual pursuits, this summer. I trot my baby several hours, every day; play tennis, and pool, and go to bed early. If it were not that I am coaching a younger brother in French, I should scarcely ever open a book. But such a state of affairs has not been the regular thing with me. I worked hard all last winter and spring, writing fiction. Most of the results have been published, but none of them, I am sorry and disappointed to say, were well paid for. May there be an exception as to the pecuniary recompense in the case of one MS, which still lies in my desk and submits to frequent revision, and to which I have given much thought and labor!

My baby continues robust, big and precocious for her age, winning and beautiful. She has rosy cheeks (a little sunburned now), flaxen hair curling tightly, and dark-brown eyes. A rare combination, you see!

I had an acute attack of urinary calculus, in the spring, but seem to have done with it. My head and liver continue weak, as of old; and, in fact, the old symptoms that took me out of college and business, and kept me out of a profession, have undergone few changes since they first paid me attention, some eighteen years ago. But instead of the enthusiastic youth who went to Newtonville to study bird skins, behold me thoroughly *blasé*! If it were not for the head and the liver, however, I should have enough and to spare of enthusiasm. It is not the nature of the gentleman that has changed, but his prospects, as seen by himself. I shall never be able to work, and so how can I hope to distinguish myself? I am not melancholy, — only resigned, — and so better off than some men similarly placed.

I am always
Sincerely yours,
Nathan Clifford Brown

N. C. Brown.

Aug. 22. 1890

CAPE ✦ COTTAGE

B. C. GIBSON, Proprietor.

P. O. ADDRESS,
PORTLAND, ME.

Cape Elizabeth, Me., 18

7 East 31st St.
New York City
Feb. 6, 1893.

My dear Will: —

Of course I do not need to point out to you the vast difference between saying that a man's work is better than anybody else's and saying that it is as good as anybody's. Of course too, I do not need to say that I want your honest opinion of my rhyme. But it came to me that you may not have altogether understood my first letter to you on this subject. I am sure that I d not think that nobody ever made or makes a china as good as mine. I do think however, that nobody makes china so uniformly excellent as mine. And therefore would be my value to an institution or to an individual, — in the uniformity of their excellence, if I am right in my estimate of them.

If you don't consider my china unequalled in ~~excellence~~ uniformity of excellence you can not say so; and I should be very much to be put out, if you didn't say so. It is quite true that nothing may come of this latest scheme of mine.

I want to go into it well prepared however; and though a qualified recommendation might be somewhat better than none, it would certainly not be extremely valuable. So I write you again, really anxious to know if you think my shoes are excelled in this same uniformity of excellence and who the horseman may be.

Sincerely yours,

Nelson C. Brown

P.S. I don't consider my shoes faultless by any means. They might be the best in spite of faults tho?

B.

Nathan C. Brown
Feby 18 - 1893.

Nathan C. Brown
Feby. 22-1893.

7 East 31st St.,
New York City,
Feb. 22, 1893.

My dear Will:-

When I had read your letter of yesterday this morning, I said to myself

"What have I done to deserve this formality—?"

But when I looked a little farther, I saw that things were not so bad as I feared!

I am much obliged to you for the letter of recommendation, which is none the less valuable because it indicates a here: to say nothing of which you do not feel sure.

I scarcely realized until today how little you have seen of my later work on large birds. For two or three years before I went abroad the first time, I did a great deal of it; and I tried as hard to reach perfection in it as I had previously tried with small birds. Nearly all of the skins which I produced went to the Portland Society of Natural History. Until you see those skins, or others which I may make in the future, you

have really little idea of what
I can do in that line. If the
men you name can equal my
hawk skins and mine in the
cabinets of the G. L. S. A.
they must have devoted painful elaboration to their work.
I did. I should like to have
you see those skins—if they
have received decent care.

Of course I should
love dearly to collect for you,
and I think you will not give
a commission to anybody else,
until I hear definitely from

Chicago. Perhaps I ought to sound a note of warning and perhaps it is entirely unnecessary to do so, — to the effect that, to attain its symmetry, a thing must have time to be thorough. I should have to stay some time in a place, in order to produce good work.

I will let you know how this Chicago matter gets on and we can then compare notes from time to time.

Come and see me, if you find yourself in New York.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur G. Brown.

Nathan C. Brown
March 7 - 1873.

7 East 31st Street
New York City
March 7, 1873.

Dear Sir,

I find that the University of Chicago has no professor in charge of its natural history department, indeed has not yet any such department at all. This makes the progress of my scheme slow, though I do not think it necessarily dooms it to failure even for the present. I think, however, as the season is almost here, that I should like to get some of your ideas as to the localities from which you want collections, and as to the arrangements you would make

with me, if I became your agent.
I think, too, that I ought to make
it clear to you, before you devote
any more thought to the matter, —
if, in fact, it is not already clear, —
that I have to devote a good deal
of time to my work. I can make
skins as fast as anyone, I believe,
for I have at times worked very
fast; but I am, frankly, unwilling
to do this, since the skins suffer
for it, and with them myself. I
would not have you suspect that
I wish by this explanation to save
myself labor. Far from it. I always
work hard, when I am in the field,
as must be apparent, I think, from

the size of the several collections I have made. Still it is quite true that I aim at the best quality rather than at numbers.

Has anything ever been done with North Western Vermont? With no books at hand, I know of nothing. It is a section I had my eye on before I went abroad. Lying west of the Green Mts, with the Richelieu leading direct to the St Lawrence Valley, and with no mountainous land to the N. W. it ought to have some interesting bird visitors. I do not mean the Lake Champlain district, but the country lying between the Missisquoi, the Lamoille and the mountains, and east of St. Albans. I know nothing about the character of that county ex-cept that its geographical situation is good. Do you know whether it is malarial or not?

Yrs as ever

[illegible] G. Brown

N. C. Brown
March-15-1893.

7 E. 31st St.,
New York City,
March 15, 1893.

My dear Will:—

I have delayed my reply to your letter of the 9th, hoping to have something definite to write you about my Chicago plan. Nothing has yet developed. I haven't yet even heard from President Harper. But he is a very busy man, and his silence need not necessarily be construed unfavorably. It is only one week to-day since I first wrote to him direct.

In the meantime, however, the season is drawing near, and I have found no other "strings" to pull [illegible] the one that leads to Cambridge and to your establishment. So I should like to know, if possible, exactly what arrangements we might make. Your experience with collectors, if not extended, at least totally eclipses mine; for I haven't the faintest idea how much they receive for their work. If they receive a certain sum per week, for instance, I should not expect to be paid any more than an average workman, because what I should gain in quality I should lose in quantity. I do not know, but I believe it probable, that most collectors of experience work at least twice as fast as I do. Naturally, then, if they work as hard and as long, they ought to be worth as much per week, simply from a business standpoint, as I am. I do not admit that one hundred poor bird-skins are worth as much as fifty very excellent ones. I suppose that the two lots would bring about the same sum in the market: and that, it seems to me, is the point. Do you endorse this reasoning?

This is the way I feel about southern Connecticut:

So far as my knowledge of that section goes, it is everywhere pretty thickly settled. Now a thickly settled district is a difficult one, morally and physically, to collect in, and it is especially difficult when it is new to the collector. I should naturally prefer to work in milder country, and I should undertake the Connecticut district with a certain amount of anxiety.

Will you, then, let me know what you would be willing to give me for my work, and when you would like me to begin? I do not wish you to say that you will positively give me a commission, under certain conditions, unless you prefer to state the matter thus. If, however, you can inform me as to the above two details, reserving, if you wish, any actual decision upon your willingness to undertake this expedition through me, I shall wait upon President Harper with less impatience.

Sincerely yours, N. C. Brown.

Portland
Monday

Dear Mr Brewster:—

Your box of skins arrived safely, with its contents in good order. Both Atwood and myself were very much pleased with our birds, though we think you rather gave us the better of the bargain. A lady of my acquaintance recently captured a spec. of *Falco anatum* with her cloak! Did I tell you of it? It is the only one ever taken here by any of my friends. Nothing else of interest has occurred.

I am
Sincerely Yours
N.C.B.

POSTAL CARD.

PORTLAND
N
27
2PM
ME.

U.S. POSTAGE
ONE CENT

WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE—THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

Mr William Brewster
Cambridge
Mass.